Poetic Devices Worksheet

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| **Poetic Device** | **Definition** | **Example** | **My Own Example** |
| end-stopped | when the end of a sentence or clause coincides with the end of a line, creating a logical pause at its close | Aunt Victoria frowned and pronounced,*Tarragon.* No one disagreed. |  |
| enjambment | occurs when the sense of a line runs over to the succeeding line; also called a run-on line | . . .We spin and spin back to the villages of our mothers’ mothers. We leave behind the men, a white blur like moonlight on empty bajra fields seen from a speeding train.  |  |
| refrain | a phrase, line, or lines repeated at intervals during a poem, especially at the close of stanzas | see Poe's use of "nothing more" and "Nevermore" in "The Raven" |  |
| alliteration | the repetition of a speech sound (typically a consonant) at the beginning of a word in a sequence of nearby words |  I am your son, *amá*, seeking the security of shadows, |   |
| assonance | the repetition of identical or similar vowels | The Lotos blooms below the barren peak:The Lotos blows by every winding creek:All day the wind breathes low with mellower toneThro' every hollow cave and alley lone,Round and round the spicy downs the yellow Lotos-dust is  blown. |  |
| consonance  | the repetition of a sequence of two or more consonants, with a change in the intervening vowel; repetition of consonants, especially at the end of stressed syllables | So dawn goes down to day.Nothing gold can stay. |  |
| onomatopoeia | a word whose sound seems to resemble closely the sound it denotes | The moan of doves in immemorial elms,And murmuring of innumerable bees. |  |
| rhyme | the repetition of sounds at the end of words | Do not go gentle into that good night.Rage, rage against the dying of the light.  |  |
| **Device** | **Definition** | **Example** | **My Own Example** |
| simile | a comparison between two different things using "like" or "as" | In the spring our palms peeled like snakes. |  |
| metaphor | an implied comparison between things essentially unlike | Their high keening is an electric net pulling us in, girls who have never seen the old land. . . |  |
| symbol | a word or an image that signifies something other than what it represents, with multiple meanings and connotations | all I wanted was to be one of those hybrid ornamental plumswhose blossoms are sweet and gloriousbut fall to the groundwithout ever bearing fruit.  |  |
| hyperbole | the use of exaggeration for effect | Here once the embattled farmers stood,And fired the shot heard round the world. |  |
| personification | an inanimate object or concept is given human characteristics or feelings | Nothing would sleep in that cellar, dank as a ditch,Bulbs broke out of boxes hunting for chinks in the  dark, |  |
| metonymy | an object, place, or person is used to represent something with which it is closely associated | As if to prove saws knew what supper meant, Leaped out at the boy's hand, or seemed to leap—. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . As he swung toward them holding up the handHalf in appeal, but half as if to keepThe life from spilling. |  |
| allusion | a passing reference to a literary or historical person, place, or event, or to another literary work | I got into a thingwith someonebecause I called hermiss ann/kennedy/rockerfeller/hughesinstead of ms. |  |
| apostrophe | a direct address to an absent person or abstract entity | Milton! thou should'st be living at this hour:England hath need of thee: she is a fenOf stagnant waters: altar, sword and pen, |  |