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 tone  Thro' 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 plums  whose blossoms are sweet and glorious  but fall to the ground  without 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 hand Half in appeal, but half as if to keep The 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 thing  with someone  because I called her  miss ann/kennedy/rockerfeller/hughes  instead 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 fen Of stagnant waters: altar, sword and pen, |  |