**Practices**

Read "**The Raven**" carefully, making note of any lines or phrases that seem particularly descriptive, unusual, or repeated.

* Identify the specific poetic device used in each example.
* Explain how the device contributes to the poem's atmosphere, meaning, or mood.

**Example:**

**Line: "Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary..."**

**Device: Alliteration (repetition of "w" sounds)**

**Explanation:** The alliteration creates a sense of weariness and slowness, mirroring the speaker's state of mind.

**Now let’s Prepare Students for the Course:**

Here are some tips to prepare students for a course on identifying figures of speech and poetic devices:

**Introduce the Basics**: Define key terms like simile, metaphor, personification, etc. Use clear examples from everyday language and children's literature.

Here are some key poetic devices to look for:

1. **Simile**: Compares two things using "like" or "as."
2. **Metaphor**: A direct comparison between two things, stating one thing is another.
3. **Personification:** Giving human qualities to non-human things.
4. **Hyperbole**: Exaggeration for emphasis.
5. **Imagery**: Vivid description that appeals to the senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch).
6. **Symbolism**: An object or image that represents something else.
7. **Repetition**: Using a word or phrase multiple times for emphasis.
8. **Alliteration**: Repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words.
9. **Assonance**: Repetition of vowel sounds within words.
10. **Onomatopoeia**: Words that sound like what they describe.

Now, go forth and unlock the mysteries hidden within the Raven!

* 1. Find an example of each poetic device in the poem.
  2. Discuss how the use of these devices adds to the overall mystery and suspense of "**The Raven**."

Let’s breakdown of the figures of speech and poetic devices found in the passage from "**The Raven"**:

**Line 1**

Once upon a midnight dreary: Sets the scene with a sense of time and mood (dreary)

**Line 2**

quaint and curious: **Alliteration** ("q" sound) adds emphasis to the adjectives describing the books.

**Lines 3-4**

**Simile:** "As of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door" - Compares the tapping to someone gently rapping.

**Line 5**

**Repetition**: "tapping at my chamber door" - Emphasizes the sound and its source.

**Line 6**

**Metaphor**: "'Tis some visitor'" - Compares the tapping sound to a visitor.

**Line 7**

**Alliteration**: "Bleak December" - Repetition of the "b" sound reinforces the coldness and harshness of the month.

**Lines 8-9**

**Personification**: "each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor" - Gives human qualities (wrought a ghost) to the embers.

**Lines 10-12**

**Hyperbole**: "vainly I had sought to borrow From my books surcease of sorrow" - An exaggeration of the speaker's attempt to escape sorrow.

**Metaphor:** "sorrow for the lost Lenore" - Compares the feeling to something lost.

**Lines 11-12**

**Repetition:** "Lenore" - Emphasizes the importance of the name.

**Line 13**

**Assonance**: "silken, sad, uncertain rustling" - Repetition of the "u" sound creates a melancholic tone.

**Line 14**

**Metaphor**: "Thrilled me—filled me with fantastic terrors" - Compares the rustling to a feeling.

**Lines 15-18**

**Repetition**: "chamber door" - Creates a sense of urgency and repetition of the sound.

**Line 19**

**Metaphor:** "Presently my soul grew stronger" - Compares gaining courage to the soul growing stronger.

**Lines 22-24**

**Repetition**: "tapping" - Emphasizes the sound and the speaker's uncertainty.

**Line 28**

**Onomatopoeia**: "whispered word, 'Lenore?'" - The word "Lenore" mimics a whisper.

**Line 29**

**Echo**: Represents the only response, further emphasizing the isolation and mystery.

**Line 30**

**Repetition**: "Merely this and nothing more" - Creates a sense of finality and emphasizes the lack of an answer.

By incorporating caesura and sibilance, Poe adds another layer of sound and meaning to the poem, enhancing the reader's experience.

**Caesura**

The poem's rhythm is punctuated by a caesura, creating moments of pause within lines. **Consider line 2**: "Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore—". The pause after "lore—" allows the reader to linger on the image of the dusty books, hinting at the speaker's solitary study and perhaps foreshadowing a yearning for forgotten knowledge. Similarly, the pause after "morrow—" in **line 10** ("Eagerly I wished the morrow;—") emphasizes the speaker's desperation to escape his grief. These strategic pauses contribute to the poem's introspective and melancholic mood.

**Sibilance**

The subtle repetition of "s" sounds, a technique known as sibilance, adds another layer of sound and meaning to the poem. Words like "pondered," "weary," "curious," and "sad" create a hushed and unsettling atmosphere. This emphasis on sibilance mirrors the speaker's growing fear and the mysterious tapping sound at the door. It's as if the "s" sounds themselves whisper secrets and hidden anxieties, further amplifying the poem's suspense and sense of unease