Poetry Toolkit

-- or --

devices used to create inventive, interesting, unique poetry.

Diction

nouns used? general or specific?

verbs used? what kind?

adjectives? out of place?

words used as a different grammatical unit than usual?

short words? long? slang?

What are the most important, seminal words in the piece?

Sound

alliteration

assonance

consonance

onomatopoeia

rhyme

rhythm

Details

abstract words or concrete words?

specific detail

unexpected detail

juxtaposition of details

Sensory Imagery

sight?

sound?

taste?

touch?

smell?

patterns, series, juxtaposition, or repetition of images?

Figures of Speech

“culture is a pyramid [to] which each of us brings a stone.”

*--Wallace Stegner*

simile

metaphor

personification

paradox

under or overstatement

irony

allusion

Symbolism

nouns given emphasis by their placement, dominance, or repetition