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