**Poetic Techniques Cheat Sheet**

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| **Technique** | **Definition** | **Example** |
| Tone | The implied attitude of a writer toward the subject | Sarcastic, excited, negative, positive, amused, humorous |
| Litotes | Understatement | (when referring to a deep wound) “Oh, it’s just a scratch” |
| Theme | The big idea in a poem | The power of love; the importance of family; the danger of greed |
| Alliteration | The repetition of consonant sounds, especially at the beginning of words | **I**ncredible **I**nnes |
| symbolism | An object or action in a literary work that means more than itself, that stands for something beyond itself. | A rose representing love |
| Enjambment | A sentence that continues onto the next line in a poem | That's my last Duchess painted **on the wall,** Looking as if she were alive. **I call That piece a wonder, now**.... |
| Rhyme | The matching of final vowel or consonant sounds in two or more words | Whenever Richard Cory went down **town,** We people on the pavement looked at him; He was a gentleman from sole to **crown** Clean favored and imperially slim. |
| Synecdoche | Where part of an object/person/concept is used to represent the whole | “hired hands”=workers |
| Assonance | The repetition of similar vowel sounds in a sentence or a line of poetry | I r**o**se and t**o**ld him of my w**o**e |
| Simile | a comparison between unlike things using *like*, *as*, or *as though* | “My love is **like** a red, red rose” |
| onomatopoeia | The use of words to imitate the sounds they describe | Bang, pow, boom |
| Hyperbole | Exaggeration | If I’ve told you once, I’ve told you **a million times**! |
| metaphor | A direct comparison between unlike things | I felt **a wave of disgust** towards him |
| personification | Giving an object human qualities | **The table trembled** under the weight of the plates |
| Repetition | Stating the same information over and over | And slowly we go down. And slowly we go down. |
| Contrast/juxtaposition | Two opposing ideas placed together | A beautiful disaster |
| Rhetorical question | A question asked to make the reader think; asked for effect | Do you think I’m stupid? |
| Pathetic fallacy | Where the weather is used to convey atmosphere or mood | Thunder crashed as he stared angrily out of the window |