Poetic Elements and Key Terms

In order to fully understand a poem, you must first be familiar with the poetic elements and terms used when analyzing poetry.

Directions: Using the Literary Analysis Workshop on pages 740-746 or the glossary of your textbook, define the following literary terms. If asked, provide an example of the term as well.

1. Form-________________________________________

2. Lines-________________________________________

3. Stanzas-_____________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Poem</th>
<th>Organic Poem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics:</td>
<td>Characteristics:</td>
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</table>

Forms: epic, ode, ballad, sonnet, haiku, limerick

4. Rhythm-_____________________________________

5. Rhyme-_____________________________________

6. End Rhyme-_________________________________

7. Internal Rhyme-________________________________

8. Meter-______________________________________

9. Rhyme Scheme-________________________________

10. Repetition-_________________________________
11. Alliteration- 
Example:

12. Assonance- 
Example:

13. Consonance- 
Example:

14. Diction- 

15. Imagery- 
Example:

16. Figurative Language- 

17. Simile- 
Example:

18. Metaphor- 
Example:

19. Personification- 
Example:

20. Hyperbole- 
Example:

21. Allusion- 
Example:
THE TROPICS IN NEW YORK /TODAY

READING POETRY

Directions: As you read the poem by Claude McKay, write examples of sound devices that give the poem its rhythm and melody. Then consider how these sound devices contribute to the theme of the poem.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Type of Sound Device</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“dewy dawn”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“pods...pears”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Set in the window, bringing memories”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“swept...wept”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

What is the theme of “The Tropics in New York”? Which line or lines from the poem suggest that this is the theme?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

How do these sound devices contribute to the theme of “The Tropics in New York”?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________
THE TROPICS IN NEW YORK /TODAY

IMAGERY
Another important element of any poem is its imagery—words and phrases that appeal to one or more of the five senses. In addition to re-creating sensory experiences, imagery calls up particular ideas and emotions.

Directions: Reread “The Tropics in New York” and look for images that evoke strong feelings. Write the exact words from the poem that creates these images and the feelings they produce in the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Images</th>
<th>Feelings Evoked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The speaker feels a connection to his homeland.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The speaker misses the familiarity of home.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The speaker compares the landscape of his homeland to something pure, sincere and heavenly.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DICTION
Poetry is known for its concise and exact use of language. When you read a poem, you should notice the diction, or choice of words. You should also look closely at the syntax, the order in which the words appear.

Directions: Using the poem “Today” on page 761, write an example of diction and syntax in the chart. Explain the effect each example creates. An example has been done for you using the poem from page 758.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poem</th>
<th>Syntax</th>
<th>Diction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Spring is like a perhaps hand”</td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> “Placing/carefully there a strange/thing and a known thing here” (lines 6–8)</td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> “Spring is like a perhaps hand” (line 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effect: placement of “there” makes the “strange thing” seem even stranger</td>
<td><strong>Effect:</strong> The word “perhaps” stresses the idea of uncertainty and change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Today”</td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effect:</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Effect:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>