

Poetic Style/Devices Activity Sheet

Section 1: Sound Devices

Directions: 1.) Take notes from the **Poetic Style** presentation to help you remember the definition of each sound device. 2.) Try to think of your own examples and write them in the space provided. Talk about your ideas with a partner or parent.

A. Repetition of sounds is commonly used in poetry. Common **sound devices** are:

1. **Consonance** – _____

Example: A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Example: _____

2. **Alliteration** – _____

Example: Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

Example: _____

3. **Sibilance** – _____

Example: Sally sells sea shells by the sea shore.

Example: _____

4. **Assonance** – _____

Example: An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

Example: _____

B. Onomatopoeia – _____

Example: The bees buzzed through the garden.

Example: _____

Section 2: Poetry Practice

Directions: Identify the sound devices used in Walt Whitman's poem, "A Noiseless Patient Spider."

Mark **consonance** in blue. Mark **alliteration** in red. Mark **sibilance** in orange or yellow. Mark **assonance** in green. You may circle, underline, highlight, or draw a box around each answer.

Hint: The first line contains **sibilance**. It has been done for you.

Example #1: "A Noiseless Patient Spider"

By Walt Whitman

A noiseless patient spider,
I mark'd where on a little promontory it stood isolated,
Mark'd how to explore the vacant vast surrounding,
It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself,
Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.

And you O my soul where you stand,
Surrounded, detached, in measureless oceans of space...
Till the bridge you will need be form'd, till the ductile anchor hold,
Till the gossamer thread you fling catch somewhere, O my soul.

Vocabulary directions: Write the definitions of the words below to help you better understand the meaning of the poem.

Promontory – _____

Filament – _____

Ductile _____

Gossamer – _____

Section 2: Poetry Practice Teacher Guide/Answer Key

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Example #1: "A Noiseless Patient Spider"

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I mark'd where on a little promontory it stood isolated,
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It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself,
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*Till the bridge you will need be form'd, till the ductile anchor hold,
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*The "ee" in "unreeling" and "speeding" is separate from the repeated short "e" sound in this line.

*The "th" and "f" sounds add to the overall effect of the "s" sound repeated in this line.

The parallel structure of these last three phrases uses another stylistic technique called *purposeful repetition*. This repetition creates its own cadence and a sense of longing for stability in the future. This technique will be discussed further in a future workshop.