

Survey of Poetry  
Summer Reading: 2019  
AP Literature

Mrs. Ben-Ezra

## Poetry Devices

Studying poetry can be rewarding if approached with an open mind and a careful eye. The following list of definitions is important to the study of poetry, but it is **not enough** to simply know the definitions of the terms, or even to be able to identify the terms when utilized by a poet. Rather, the terms should be used to answer the questions *why and how* language is used to give meaning to a poem.

**Directions: Part I: Define each term. Include an example when deemed necessary.**

1. alliteration
2. assonance
3. blank verse
4. cacophony
5. conceit
- 6 connotation
7. couplet
8. enjambment
9. euphony
10. free verse
11. imagery
12. metaphor
13. meter
14. prosody
15. quatrain
16. repetition
17. rhyme
18. scansion
19. simile
20. sonnet
21. stanza

**Part II: Print, read, and annotate the following poems. By annotate, I mean: try to get an understanding of what they are about without looking up the answers. Your annotations, genuine, authentic, and, YES, wrong, are the acceptable answers. Getting it "RIGHT" is not the objective.**

## Renaissance

### “Amoretti: Sonnet 54”

By Edmund Spenser

Of this worlds theatre in which we stay,  
My love like the spectator ydly sits  
Beholding me that all the pageants play,  
Disguysing diversly my troubled wits. 5  
Sometimes I joy when glad occasion fits,  
And mask in myrth lyke to a comedy:  
Soone after when my joy to sorrow flits,  
I waile and make my woes a tragedy.  
Yet she, beholding me with constant eye, 10  
Delights not in my merth nor rues my smart:  
But when I laugh she mocks, and when I cry  
She laughs and hardens evermore her heart.  
What then can move her? if nor merth nor mone,  
She is no woman, but a senceless stone.

### “On Poet-Ape”

by Ben Jonson (1582-1637)

Poor Poet-Ape, that would be thought our chief,  
Whose works are e'en the frippery of wit,  
From brokage is become so bold a thief,  
As we, the robbed, leave rage, and pity it.  
At first he made low shifts, would pick and glean,  
Buy the reversion of old plays; now grown  
To a little wealth, and credit in the scene,  
He takes up all, makes each man's wit his own.  
And, told of this, he slights it. Tut, such crimes  
The sluggish gaping auditor devours;  
He marks not whose 'twas first, and after-times  
May judge it to be his, as well as ours.  
Fool, as if half eyes will not know a fleece  
From locks of wool, or shreds from the whole piece.

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## The Enlightenment and Age of Reason

### from *An Essay on Criticism*

Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

A little learning is a dangerous thing;  
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring:  
There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,  
And drinking largely sobers us again.  
Fired at first sight with what the Muse imparts,                   5  
In fearless youth we tempt the heights of Arts;  
While from the bounded level of our mind  
Short views we take, nor see the lengths behind,  
But, more advanced, behold with strange surprise  
New distant scenes of endless science rise!                   10  
So pleased at first the towering Alps we try,  
Mount o'er the vales, and seem to tread the sky;  
The eternal snows appear already past,  
And the first clouds and mountains seem the last;  
But those attained, we tremble to survey                   15  
The growing labours of the lengthened way;  
The increasing prospect tires our wandering eyes,  
Hills peep o'er hills, and Alps on Alps arise!

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## Romanticism

### “The Sick Rose “

By William Blake (1757-1827)

O Rose thou art sick.  
The invisible worm,  
That flies in the night  
In the howling storm:  
  
Has found out thy bed                   5  
Of crimson joy:  
And his dark secret love  
Does thy life destroy



Cannon in front of  
them Volleyed and  
thundered; Stormed at with  
shot and shell, Boldly they  
rode and well,  
Into the jaws of Death,  
Into the mouth of hell  
Rode the six hundred.

#### IV

Flashed all their sabres bare,  
Flashed as they turned in air  
Sabring the gunners there,  
Charging an army, while  
All the world wondered.  
Plunged in the battery-smoke  
Right through the line they broke;  
Cossack and Russian  
Reeled from the sabre stroke  
Shattered and sundered.  
Then they rode back, but not  
Not the six hundred.

#### V

Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon behind them  
Volleyed and thundered;  
Stormed at with shot and shell,  
While horse and hero fell.  
They that had fought so well  
Came through the jaws of Death,  
Back from the mouth of hell,  
All that was left of them,  
Left of six hundred.

#### VI

When can their glory fade?  
O the wild charge they made!  
All the world wondered.  
Honour the charge they made!  
Honour the Light Brigade,  
Noble six hundred!



## **“The Unknown Citizen”**

**W. H. Auden, (1907 – 1973)**

*(To JS/07 M 378*

*This Marble Monument*

*Is Erected by the State)*

He was found by the Bureau of Statistics to be  
One against whom there was no official complaint,  
And all the reports on his conduct agree  
That, in the modern sense of an old-fashioned word, he was a  
saint,  
For in everything he did he served the Greater Community.  
Except for the War till the day he retired  
He worked in a factory and never got fired,  
But satisfied his employers, Fudge Motors Inc.  
Yet he wasn't a scab or odd in his views,  
For his Union reports that he paid his dues,  
(Our report on his Union shows it was sound)  
And our Social Psychology workers found  
That he was popular with his mates and liked a drink.  
The Press are convinced that he bought a paper everyday  
And that his reactions to advertisements were normal in every way.  
Policies taken out in his name prove that he was fully insured,  
And his Health-card shows he was once in hospital but left it cured.  
Both Producers Research and High-Grade Living declare  
He was fully sensible to the advantages of the Instalment Plan  
And had everything necessary to the Modern Man,  
A phonograph, a radio, a car and a frigidaire.  
Our researchers into Public Opinion are content  
That he held the proper opinions for the time of year;  
When there was peace, he was for peace: when there was war, he went.  
He was married and added five children to the population,  
Which our Eugenist says was the right number for a parent of his  
generation.  
And our teachers report that he never interfered with their  
education.  
Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:  
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard.

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# Modernism

## “One Art”

### Elizabeth Bishop (1911 – 1979)

The art of losing isn't hard to master;  
so many things seem filled with the intent  
to be lost that their loss is no disaster.

Lose something every day. Accept the fluster  
of lost door keys, the hour badly spent.  
The art of losing isn't hard to master.

Then practice losing farther, losing faster:  
places, and names, and where it was you meant  
to travel. None of these will bring disaster.

I lost my mother's watch. And look! my last, or  
next-to-last, of three loved houses went.  
The art of losing isn't hard to master.

I lost two cities, lovely ones. And, vaster,  
some realms I owned, two rivers, a continent.  
I miss them, but it wasn't a disaster.

—Even losing you (the joking voice, a gesture  
I love) I shan't have lied. It's evident  
the art of losing's not too hard to master  
though it may look like (*Write it!*) like disaster.

From *The Complete Poems 1927-1979* by Elizabeth Bishop, published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Inc.  
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### *Mini Glossary*

**camshaft** – a bar in an engine.

**gimbel** – some mechanism for keeping bits in place.

**crank** – a lever you turn to make something start.

**Swarfega** – a type of heavy duty handwash good for getting oil off hands.

**swarf** – small bits of metal left over after drilling or filing.

**scobs** – waste material from metal.

**gunmetal** – dark gray/black metallic substances.

**lithe** – moving and bending in a graceful way.

**lathe** – a machine that spins wood.

**emigre** – someone who has settled abroad for political reasons.

**flange** – part of a pipe.

**chamfered** – carpentry term meaning cut away.