

INSPIRATION COACHING CENTRE

1 Dust of Snow – Robert Frost

The way a crow

Devices:

- Symbolism – *Crow* symbolizes negativity / sorrow
- Alliteration – “way” (soft consonant flow)
- Simple diction – conversational tone

Shook down on me

Devices:

- Inversion (poetic structure)
- Imagery – visual image of snow falling

The dust of snow

Devices:

- Metaphor – Snow compared to “dust”
- Symbolism – Snow = purity / positivity / change
- Visual imagery

From a hemlock tree

Devices:

- Symbolism – Hemlock tree symbolizes sadness / death
- Alliteration – “hemlock” (harsh sound adds gloom)

Has given my heart

Devices:

- Personification – Snow “has given” something
- Metaphor – Heart represents mood / emotions

A change of mood

Devices:

- Theme – Transformation
- Internal rhyme – soft musical tone

And saved some part

Devices:

- Personification – Snow “saved”
- Enjambment

Of a day I had rued.

Devices:

- Archaic word – “rued” (regretted)
- Rhyme scheme – ABAB CDCD
- Tone shift – From regret to relief

2 Fire and Ice – Robert Frost

Some say the world will end in fire,

Devices:

- Symbolism – Fire = desire / greed
- Alliteration – “Some say”

- Metaphor – Fire as human passion
- Enjambment

Some say in ice.

Devices:

- Symbolism – Ice = hatred / coldness
- Repetition – “Some say”
- Contrast

From what I’ve tasted of desire

Devices:

- Metaphor – Desire compared to tasting
- Personal tone

I hold with those who favor fire.

Devices:

- Alliteration – “favor fire”
- Metaphor – Fire = destructive desire

But if it had to perish twice,

Devices:

- Hyperbole – World perishing twice
- Hypothetical tone

I think I know enough of hate

Devices:

- Personal reflection
- Symbolism – Hate

To say that for destruction ice

Devices:

- Inversion
- Symbolism – Ice = destructive hatred

Is also great

Devices:

- Irony – Ice equally powerful
- Enjambment

And would suffice.

Devices:

- Understatement
- Concluding tone

Rhyme Scheme: ABAABCBCB

Theme: Human emotions destroy the world

Tone: Serious, reflective

3 A Tiger in the Zoo – Leslie Norris

He stalks in his vivid stripes

Devices:

- Visual imagery – tiger’s bright stripes
- Alliteration – *stalks, stripes*

- Symbolism – tiger = power trapped in modern world
- Present tense – creates immediacy

The few steps of his cage,

Devices:

- Irony – powerful animal limited to “few steps”
- Symbolism – cage = human control / captivity
- Enjambment

On pads of velvet quiet,

Devices:

- Metaphor – paws compared to velvet
- Tactile imagery – softness
- Alliteration – *velvet*

In his quiet rage.

Devices:

- Oxymoron – quiet + rage
- Alliteration – *quiet rage*
- Tone – suppressed anger

He should be lurking in shadow,

Devices:

- Contrast – natural vs cage life
- Imagery – shadow (forest scene)
- Modal verb “should” shows expectation

Sliding through long grass

Devices:

- Visual imagery
- Sibilance – “sliding”, “grass”
- Metaphor – smooth movement

Near the water hole

Devices:

- Natural habitat imagery
- Symbolism – freedom

Where plump deer pass.

Devices:

- Alliteration – *plump pass*
- Visual imagery
- Predator-prey contrast

He should be snarling around houses

Devices:

- Auditory imagery – snarling sound
- Repetition – “He should be”
- Contrast – expected wild behavior

At the jungle's edge,

Devices:

- Setting imagery
- Symbolism – boundary between wild & human

Baring his white fangs, his claws,

Devices:

- Visual imagery
- Repetition – “his”
- Violent imagery

Terrorising the village!

Devices:

- Hyperbole – terrorising
- Exclamation – intensity
- Symbolism – natural dominance

But he's locked in a concrete cell,

Devices:

- Contrast – freedom vs captivity
- Symbolism – concrete = artificial world
- Harsh imagery

His strength behind bars,

Devices:

- Metaphor – strength imprisoned
- Symbolism – loss of power

Stalking the length of his cage,

Devices:

- Repetition – stalking
- Visual imagery
- Monotony of life

Ignoring visitors.

Devices:

- Tone – dignity / anger
- Symbolism – protest against humans

He hears the last voice at night,

Devices:

- Auditory imagery
- Loneliness theme

The patrolling cars,

Devices:

- Modern imagery
- Symbolism – human surveillance

And stares with his brilliant eyes

Devices:

- Visual imagery
- Metaphor – brilliance = spirit

At the brilliant stars.

Devices:

- Repetition – brilliant
- Symbolism – stars = freedom
- Contrast – cage vs sky

Rhyme Scheme: Free verse

Themes:

- Freedom vs captivity
- Cruelty to animals
- Loss of natural habitat

4 How to Tell Wild Animals – Carolyn Wells

If ever you should go by chance

Devices:

- Conditional tone
- Direct address to reader
- Conversational style

To jungles in the East;

Devices:

- Imagery – jungle setting
- Rhyme – chance/East (humorous tone)

And if there should to you advance

Devices:

- Repetition – “if”
- Suspense

A large and tawny beast,

Devices:

- Visual imagery
- Adjective use – tawny

If he roars at you as you’re dyin’

Devices:

- Hyperbole – dying
- Humour
- Dialect – dyin’

You’ll know it is the Asian Lion...

Devices:

- Irony – recognition after death
- Humorous tone
- Ellipsis

Or if some time when roaming round,

Devices:

- Casual tone
- Imagery

A noble wild beast greets you,

Devices:

- Personification – greets
- Irony

With black stripes on a yellow ground,

Devices:

- Visual imagery
- Colour imagery

Just notice if he eats you.

Devices:

- Dark humour
- Irony

This simple rule may help you learn

Devices:

- Satire
- Conversational tone

The Bengal Tiger to discern.

Devices:

- Rhyme
- Humorous instruction

If strolling forth, a beast you view,

Devices:

- Imagery
- Inversion

Whose hide with spots is peppered,

Devices:

- Metaphor – peppered
- Visual imagery

As soon as he has leapt on you,

Devices:

- Hyperbole
- Humour

You'll know it is the Leopard.

Devices:

- Irony
- Rhyme

'Twill do no good to roar with pain,

Devices:

- Humour
- Irony

He'll only lep and lep again.

Devices:

- Repetition – lep
- Comic effect
- Alliteration

If when you're walking round your yard

Devices:

- Casual imagery

You meet a creature there,

Devices:

- Suspense

Who hugs you very, very hard,

Devices:

- Repetition
- Irony

Be sure it is a Bear.

Devices:

- Humour
- Rhyme

If you have any doubt, I guess

Devices:

- Conversational tone

He'll give you just one more caress.

Devices:

- Irony
- Euphemism – attack as caress

Though to distinguish beasts of prey

Devices:

- Didactic tone

A novice might nonplus,

Devices:

- Difficult diction
- Humour

The Crocodile you always may

Devices:

- Direct address

Tell from the Hyena thus:

Devices:

- Instructional tone

Hyenas come with merry smiles;

Devices:

- Irony
- Personification

But if they weep they're Crocodiles.

Devices:

- Pun – crocodile tears
- Humour

Rhyme Scheme: AABB

Tone: Comic

Theme: Humour and satire on wild animal descriptions

3 The Ball Poem – John Berryman

What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,

Devices:

- Rhetorical question
- Symbolism – ball = childhood / innocence
- Alliteration – *boy, ball*
- Tone – sad, reflective

What, what is he to do?

Devices:

- Repetition – “what” (confusion)
- Rhetorical question
- Enjambment

I saw it go

Devices:

- First person narration
- Visual imagery

Merrily bouncing, down the street,

Devices:

- Personification – ball “merrily”
- Visual imagery
- Contrast – happy movement vs loss

And then merrily over – there it is in the water!

Devices:

- Repetition – merrily
- Sudden realization
- Exclamation

No use to say ‘O there are other balls’:

Devices:

- Direct speech
- Theme – material loss vs emotional loss
- Tone – practical vs emotional

An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy

Devices:

- Alliteration – *shaking grief*
- Personification – grief fixes
- Imagery – emotional paralysis

As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down

Devices:

- Visual imagery
- Tricolon (three actions)
- Enjambment

All his young days into the harbour where

Devices:

- Metaphor – ball = childhood memories
- Symbolism – harbour = life
- Imagery

His ball went.

Devices:

- Short sentence – impact
- Symbolism

I would not intrude on him,

Devices:

- First person reflection
- Tone – understanding

A dime, another ball, is worthless.

Devices:

- Symbolism – money cannot replace feelings
- Alliteration – *ball, worthless*

Now he senses first responsibility

Devices:

- Theme – growing up
- Abstract noun

In a world of possessions.

Devices:

- Symbolism – material world
- Theme – loss teaches maturity

People will take balls,

Devices:

- Metaphor – life takes things away

Balls will be lost always, little boy.

Devices:

- Repetition – balls
- Life lesson tone

And no one buys a ball back.

Devices:

- Metaphor – lost time cannot return
- Finality

Money is external.

Devices:

- Philosophical tone
- Contrast – money vs emotions

He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,

Devices:

- Imagery – desperate eyes
- Tone – sympathy

The epistemology of loss...

Devices:

- Difficult diction – epistemology
- Theme – knowledge through loss
- Ellipsis

How to stand up

Devices:

- Metaphor – emotional strength

Knowing what every man must one day know

Devices:

- Universal theme
- Repetition – know

And most know many days, how to stand up.

Devices:

- Repetition
- Philosophical tone

6 Amanda! – Robin Klein

Don't bite your nails, Amanda!

Devices:

- Imperative sentence
- Direct address
- Exclamation
- Repetition of name

Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!

Devices:

- Repetition

- Instructional tone

Stop that slouching and sit up straight,

Devices:

- Commands
- Alliteration – *sit, straight*

Amanda!

Devices:

- Repetition
- Tone – irritation

There is a languid, emerald sea,

Devices:

- Imagery – visual
- Metaphor – imagination world
- Alliteration – *languid*

where the sole inhabitant is me—

Devices:

- Imagery
- Contrast – freedom vs control

a mermaid, drifting blissfully.

Devices:

- Metaphor – Amanda as mermaid
- Alliteration – *blissfully*
- Escapism

Did you finish your homework, Amanda?

Devices:

- Question
- Real world interruption

Did you tidy your room, Amanda?

Devices:

- Repetition
- Nagging tone

I thought I told you to clean your shoes,

Devices:

- Scolding tone

Amanda!

Devices:

- Repetition

I am an orphan, roaming the street.

Devices:

- Metaphor – desire for freedom

- Imagery
- Irony

I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.

Devices:

- Visual imagery
- Alliteration – *hushed*

The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.

Devices:

- Metaphor
- Alliteration – *freedom, sweet*
- Theme – freedom

Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!

Devices:

- Command
- Repetition

Remember your acne, Amanda!

Devices:

- Nagging tone

Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you,

Devices:

- Question
- Authority

Amanda!

Devices:

- Repetition

I am Rapunzel, I have not a care;

Devices:

- Allusion – Rapunzel
- Metaphor
- Escapism

life in a tower is tranquil and rare;

Devices:

- Imagery
- Irony – tower seen as peaceful

I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!

Devices:

- Symbolism – hair = freedom
- Determination

Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!

Devices:

- Command
- Tone – strict

You're always so moody, Amanda!

Devices:

- Repetition

Anyone would think that I nagged at you,

Devices:

- Irony

Amanda!

Devices:

- Repetition

Themes:

- Childhood oppression
- Freedom vs control
- Imagination

7 The Trees – Adrienne Rich

The trees inside are moving out into the forest,

Devices:

- Personification – trees moving
- Symbolism – trees = women / humans seeking freedom
- Imagery – movement
- Metaphor – migration to freedom

the forest that was empty all these days

Devices:

- Symbolism – forest = freedom space
- Contrast – empty vs filled
- Imagery

where no bird could sit

Devices:

- Symbolism – birds = freedom
- Imagery

no insect hide

Devices:

- Repetition – no
- Imagery

no sun bury its feet in shadow

Devices:

- Personification – sun burying feet
- Imagery
- Metaphor

the forest that was empty all these nights

Devices:

- Repetition
- Symbolism

will be full of trees by morning.

Devices:

- Hopeful tone
- Imagery – transformation

All night the roots work

Devices:

- Personification – roots work
- Symbolism – effort for freedom

to disengage themselves from the cracks

Devices:

- Metaphor – escaping restrictions
- Imagery

in the veranda floor.

Devices:

- Symbolism – house = confinement

The leaves strain toward the glass

Devices:

- Personification
- Symbolism – desire for freedom

small twigs stiff with exertion

Devices:

- Imagery
- Personification

long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof

Devices:

- Personification
- Imagery

like newly discharged patients

Devices:

- Simile
- Theme – relief after restriction

half-dazed, moving

Devices:

- Imagery
- Simile continuation

to the clinic doors.

Devices:

- Symbolism – recovery / freedom

I sit inside, doors open to the veranda

Devices:

- Contrast – poet inside vs trees outside writing long letters

Devices:

- Symbolism – expression in which I scarcely mention the departure

Devices:

- Irony
- Tone – calm of the forest from the house.

Devices:

- Metaphor
- Symbolism

The night is fresh, the whole moon shines

Devices:

- Imagery
- Symbolism – hope in a sky still open

Devices:

- Symbolism – freedom the smell of leaves and lichen

Devices:

- Sensory imagery still reaches like a voice into the rooms.

Devices:

- Simile
- Personification

My head is full of whispers

Devices:

- Metaphor
- Imagery which tomorrow will be silent.

Devices:

- Contrast
- Tone – reflective

Listen. The glass is breaking.

Devices:

- Symbolism – barriers breaking
- Imperative
- Imagery

The trees are stumbling forward

Devices:

- Personification
- Imagery

into the night. Winds rush to meet them.

Devices:

- Personification
- Symbolism – support for freedom

The moon is broken like a mirror,

Devices:

- Simile
- Imagery

its pieces flash now in the crown

Devices:

- Imagery

of the tallest oak.

Devices:

- Symbolism – victory

8 Fog – Carl Sandburg

The fog comes

Devices:

- Personification – fog comes like living being
- Imagery

on little cat feet.

Devices:

- Metaphor – fog = cat
- Visual imagery
- Softness

It sits looking

Devices:

- Personification
- Imagery

over harbour and city

Devices:

- Visual imagery
- Setting

on silent haunches

Devices:

- Metaphor – cat posture
- Alliteration – silent

and then moves on.

Devices:

- Personification
- Theme – transience

Form: Free verse

Theme: Nature's mystery and movement

9 The Tale of Custard the Dragon – Ogden Nash

Belinda lived in a little white house,

Devices:

- Imagery
- Alliteration – little

With a little black kitten and a little grey mouse,

Devices:

- Repetition – little
- Imagery

And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,

Devices:

- Colour imagery
- Repetition

And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Devices:

- Repetition
- Invented words (humour)
- Irony – “little” dragon

Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink,

Devices:

- Naming
- Imagery

And the little grey mouse, she called her Blink,

Devices:

- Rhyme
- Personification

And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard,

Devices:

- Simile – sharp as mustard
- Alliteration

But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.

Devices:

- Irony
- Humour
- Characterisation

Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,

Devices:

- Imagery
- Contrast

And spikes on top of him and scales underneath,

Devices:

- Visual imagery
- Repetition

Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,

Devices:

- Simile
- Hyperbole

And realio, trulio daggers on his toes.

Devices:

- Hyperbole
- Repetition

Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,

Devices:

- Simile
- Hyperbole

And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,

Devices:

- Hyperbole
- Humour

Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,

Devices:

- Simile
- Imagery

But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Devices:

- Irony
- Contrast

(Important exam note: whole poem full of **repetition, irony, humour, simile, alliteration, hyperbole**)

Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,

Devices:

- Repetition
- Suspense
- Onomatopoeia

And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.

Devices:

- Auditory imagery

Meowch! cried Ink, and Ooh! cried Belinda,

Devices:

- Onomatopoeia
- Exclamation

For there was a pirate, climbing in the winda.

Devices:

- Humour
- Imagery

Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,

Devices:

- Repetition
- Imagery

And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,

Devices:

- Visual imagery

His beard was black, one leg was wood;

Devices:

- Imagery
- Stereotype

It was clear that the pirate meant no good.

Devices:

- Tone – danger

Belinda paled, and she cried for help,

Devices:

- Imagery
- Fear

Mustard fled with a terrified yelp,

Devices:

- Irony – brave dog runs
- Onomatopoeia

Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,

Devices:

- Personification
- Humour

And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.

Devices:

- Humour
- Irony

But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,

Devices:

- Simile
- Heroic tone

Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,

Devices:

- Simile
- Imagery

With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm,

Devices:

- Onomatopoeia
- Alliteration

He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.

Devices:

- Simile
- Humour

The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,

Devices:

- Imagery

And gulped some grog from his pocket flagon,

Devices:

- Alliteration

He fired two bullets but they didn't hit,

Devices:

- Action imagery

And Custard gobbled him, every bit.

Devices:

- Hyperbole
- Humour

Theme:

- True courage shown in danger
- Appearances vs reality

10 For Anne Gregory – W.B. Yeats

“Never shall a young man,

Devices:

- Dialogue form
- Direct speech

Thrown into despair

Devices:

- Imagery
- Hyperbole

By those great honey-coloured

Devices:

- Imagery – colour
- Metaphor – honey-coloured hair

Ramparts at your ear,

Devices:

- Metaphor – hair as ramparts
- Visual imagery

Love you for yourself alone

Devices:

- Theme – inner beauty

And not your yellow hair.”

Devices:

- Symbolism – hair = outer beauty

“But I can get a hair-dye

Devices:

- Practical tone
- Irony

And set such colour there,

Devices:

- Imagery

Brown, or black, or carrot,

Devices:

- Colour imagery
- Listing

That young men in despair

Devices:

- Repetition

May love me for myself alone

Devices:

- Theme – desire for true love

And not my yellow hair.”

Devices:

- Repetition
- Symbolism

“I heard an old religious man

Devices:

- Narrative shift

But yesternight declare

Devices:

- Archaic diction

That he had found a text to prove

Devices:

- Religious reference

That only God, my dear,

Devices:

- Apostrophe

Could love you for yourself alone

Devices:

- Theme – divine love

And not your yellow hair.”

Devices:

- Repetition
- Symbolism

★ **MOST IMPORTANT DEVICES FOR BOARD EXAM (HIGHLY ASKED)**

Repetition – Amanda, Custard, Anne Gregory

Metaphor – Dust of Snow, Fog, Trees

Symbolism – Fire & Ice, Ball Poem, Tiger

Alliteration – All poems

Imagery – Every poem

Irony – Custard, Wild Animals

Personification – Fog, Trees, Dust of Snow

Simile – Custard Dragon mainly