

# CLASS 12 POETIC DEVICES

## FLAMINGO

### Prose 1. The Last Lesson

As quiet as Sunday morning – Simile

As fast as I could-simile

Up and down – Antithesis

Terrible iron ruler – Transferred Epithet

School seemed so strange – Sibilance & Metonymy

Thunderclap – Metaphor

Wretches – Metaphor

Old friends – Metaphor

And, without one mistake? – Rhetorical question

Alsace, she puts off – Personification

Onomatopoeia:

Bah

Cooed

Ah

You are not the worst – Litotes

Language is the key – Metaphor

Almost as if the poor – Simile

So easy, so easy – Repetition

Put it all into our heads – Synecdoche

Like little flags – Simile

Fish-hooks, as if that was French – Simile

Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons? – Rhetorical Question

School is dismissed – Synecdoche

### Prose 2. Lost Spring

Lost spring – Metaphor

Many storms that swept- Metaphor

Gold in garbage dumps – Hyperbole

Promises like mine – Simile

His bleak world - Transferred Epithet

Lord of the universe – Irony

An army of barefoot boys – Metaphor

Garbage to them is gold – Hyperbole

Like the morning birds – Simile

Air of desolation – Metaphor

Young boys like the son of the priest ... remain shoeless. – Antithesis

Like the son of the priest – Simile

Like the rag-pickers – Simile

Seemapuri, a place on the periphery of Delhi yet miles away from it – Antithesis

Transit homes – Transferred Epithet

Rag-picking has acquired ... of fine art. – Hyperbole  
Garbage is their daily bread, a roof over their heads – Metaphor  
Even shoes with a hole is a dream – Metaphor  
Like a mirage – Simile  
Can a god-given lineage even be broken? – Rhetorical Question  
Like the tongs – Simile  
Suhaag – Symbolism  
Their fathers are as hard as they are – Simile  
The baggage of the child – Metaphor  
Few airplanes fly over Firozabad – Pun  
Choked with garbage – Personification  
Sizzling spinach leaves – Onomatopoeia  
Bangles- sunny gold... lie in mounds in unkempt yards – Irony  
Circle of bangles – Symbolism & Paradox  
Like the old woman – Simile  
She still has bangles on wrist, but no light in her eyes – Irony  
They talk endlessly – Paradox  
Web of poverty – Metaphor  
Few airplanes fly over Firozabad – Pun

### **Prose 3. Deep Water**

Simile :

Nine feet were like ninety  
Like a cork  
I reached up as if to grab a rope  
As dead weights  
As in one nightmare fights  
Like a great charge of electricity  
Tender arms like Mother's

I went down, down, endlessly – Repetition, hyperbole

Yellow glow dark – Antithesis

Personification:

The water heard me  
Stark terror seized me  
Water held me  
Terror that knows no understanding  
Terror that knows no control  
Blackness wiped out fear and terror  
Icy terror would grab my heart  
Haunting fear of the water followed me  
Bit of the panic seized me

Deep water – Metaphor

To float along in space – Metaphor

Curtain of life – Metaphor

Back and forth – Antithesis  
Shrieking – Onomatopoeia  
Stiff, rigid – Tautology  
To float along in space – Metaphor  
Bottomless water – Hyperbole  
Held me firmly in its grip – Personification  
Climb the peaks – Metaphor  
And then, strangely, there was light. I was coming out of the awful yellow water – Visual Imagery  
He held on to the end of the rope, hour after hour, day after day, week after week. – Climax  
The instructor was finished. But I was not finished. – Antithesis  
“Trying to scare me, eh? Well, here’s to you!” – Apostrophe  
Mr. Terror – Personification  
As Doug Corpron – Simile  
Gilbert Peak returned the echo – Personification  
All we have to fear is fear itself – Paradox

#### **Prose 4. The Rattrap**

Rattrap – Metaphor  
Riches, food, shelter.....exactly as the rattrap – Simile  
To keep body and soul together – Euphemism  
As the rattrap – Simile  
The bait – Metaphor  
The world had never been kind to him – Metonymy  
Confidence as with his porridge and tobacco – Simile  
Like an impenetrable prison – Simile  
He walked and walked – Repetition  
He wore nothing but a long shirt – Antithesis  
Like an old regimental comrade – Simile  
Would be like throwing himself – Simile  
As inconspicuously as possible – Simile  
As freely as you came – Simile  
Uncertain reflection from the furnace – Transferred epithet  
He walks and walks – Repetition  
Time after time – Repetition  
Window frame as a bait for poor wanderers – Simile  
Christmas present from a rat.....in this world's rattrap – Metaphor  
The stranger said no, and no, and again no – Repetition  
Why had she done it? What could the crazy idea be? – Rhetorical Question  
Money pouch as a bait – Simile  
As if I was a real captain – Simile

Onomatopoeia:

Thump

Groan

Crack

Roar

Mumble

### **Prose 5. Indigo**

Like any other peasant – Simile

Professor to harbour a man like me - Simile

Free from fear – Alliteration

The chief commercial crop – Alliteration

As a poor yeoman – Simile

Mountain of evidence – Metaphor

### **Prose 6. Poets and pancakes**

Gemini studios bought in truck loads – Hyperbole

Gemini studios believed to have been Robert Clive's stables – Irony

Makeup men can turn decent looking person into hideous crimson hued monster – Irony

Look ugly in order to look presentable in movie – Paradox

It could save me from his epics – Metaphor

Flop film – Alliteration

The rats fights the tigress....tends them lovingly – Paradox

Like a coat of mail – Simile

Like so many of those – Simile

Lawyer lost his job because the poets were asked to go home – Paradox

Buzzed – Onomatopoeia

What are we doing? – Rhetorical question

What is an English poet...simplest sort of people? – Rhetorical question

Patient, persistent, persevering – Alliteration

I felt like I had – Simile

Long lost brother – Alliteration & Metaphor

A dark chamber of my mind – Metaphor

Hazy illumination – Oxymoron

### **Prose 7: The Interview**

Just as much of a crime as an offence – Simile

Like thumbprints on his windpipe – Simile

Aah – Onomatopoeia

As big as my fist – Simile

Elevator to come up from first to third floor, I have already written an article – Hyperbole

It's a detective yarn at one level – Metaphor

People like trash – Metaphor

Tell stories like a Chinese wise man – Simile

## **Prose 8: Going places**

I'll be like Mary Quant – Simile

Going places – Irony

Something a bit sophisticated – Sibilance

Huh – Onomatopoeia

If ever I come into money – Repetition

Blessed decent house – Transferred epithet

His mouth as hard as he could go – Simile

She thinks money grows on trees, don't she? – Rhetorical question & Metaphor

Delicate-seeming ...crooked – Antithesis

He was three years out....far side of the city – Asyndeton

She suspected areas of his life – Metaphor

Had to be prized out – Metaphor

Like stones out of ground – Simile

Speaking it as though – Simile

Districts of the city – Antithesis

Whether they were only .....surrounding country who knew? – Rhetorical question

She was conscious of a vast world out there waiting for her – Personification

She would feel as at home – Simile

It expectantly awaited her arrival – Personification & Repetition

There was a sound of applause...to greet them – Imagery & Personification

As though it were a small dumb animal – Simile

And I looked around and who should it be but Danny – Polysyndeton

Oh – Onomatopoeia

Gentle eyes - Transferred Epithet

So tall as you'd think – Simile

Their father had washed ..and his face...and arms – Polysyndeton

Father said reverently to the television – Personification

Better than that even – Simile

Young yet – Alliteration

Older than I am – Simile

This another of your wild stories? – Rhetorical Question & Metaphor

Load of trouble – Metaphor

The table lamp...and across..and the team...and the row – Polysyndeton

Promise you'll tell no one? – Rhetorical question

Strings of girls – Metaphor

As if anyone would tell a girl – Simile

As quiet as all – Simile

Nothing like that – Simile

Like when they interviewed – Simile

Paper or pen – Alliteration

Shiny and shapeless – Alliteration

He dragged the jacket... and shapeless-....and pushed his arms – Polysyndeton  
Weekly pilgrimage – Metaphor  
Sophie and her father and little Derek – Polysyndeton  
United won....and Casey..and Irish.... And beating – Polysyndeton  
Ireland'll win the world cup – Personification  
It wasn't a Janise kind of thing – Repetition  
Was nothing sacred? – Rhetorical Question  
Chuffed as anything – Simile  
How much had Geoff said? – Rhetorical Question  
Hushed – Onomatopoeia  
She watched along the canal, seeing him....excitement – Asyndeton  
Wishing Danny would come, wishing he would come – Repetition  
Pangs of doubts stirring inside me – Personification & Metaphor  
What can I tell if he doesn't come? – Rhetorical Question  
Danny and me – Repetition  
It is a hard burden to carry-on – Metaphor  
Now I have become ...it is hard thing, this sadness – Soliloquy  
Sitting here waiting and ... and how – Polysyndeton  
To hold my head – Synecdoche  
I envisage the slow walk home.....he didn't come, that Danny – Imagery  
He'll fly out – Hyperbole  
Same level as your own – Simile  
Like a gazelle – Simile

### **Poem 1. My Mother at Sixty-six**

Simile:

Like that of a corpse  
As old as  
As a late winter's moon

Merry children spilling – Metaphor  
Young Trees sprinting – Personification  
Smile and smile and smile – Repetition  
Young Trees sprinting ... their homes – Imagery

### **Poem 3. Keeping Quiet**

Now we will ... all keep still – Symbolism & Antithesis  
We will- Alliteration  
Face of the Earth – Personification  
Let's not ... Let's stop ... for one second – Anaphora  
Arms – Pun  
Without rush, without engines – Repetition  
We would-Alliteration  
Fishermen – Symbolism  
Cold sea – Antithesis, transferred epithet

Whales – Symbolism  
The man gathering salt – Symbolism  
Hurt hands-Alliteration  
Green wars – Irony  
Wars with gas, wars with fire – Repetition  
Victory with no survivors – Paradox  
Walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing – Antithesis  
Brothers – Symbolism  
Clean clothes – Metaphor, Alliteration  
What I want- Alliteration  
So Single-minded- Alliteration  
About keeping our lives moving....do nothing – Antithesis  
No truck with death – Euphemism  
The Earth can teach us – Personification  
Everything seems dead and later proves to be alive – Antithesis

#### **Poem 4. A Thing of Beauty**

Metaphor :

Bower  
Dreams  
Morrow  
Flowery band  
Pall  
Endless fountain of immortal drink  
Gloomy days  
O'er-darkened ways  
Immortal drink

Imagery :

A flowery band ... the earth  
Such the sun ... grandeur of the dooms  
An endless ... immortal drink

Gloomy days – Transferred Epithet  
Simple sheep – Symbolism & Allusion  
Old and young – Antithesis  
Mighty dead – Oxymoron  
Immortal drink – Transferred Epithet

#### **Poem 5. A Roadside Stand**

The little old house was out with a little new shed – Antithesis & Repetition  
A roadside stand that too pathetically pled – Personification & Alliteration  
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint – Metaphor  
The money, the cash – Tautology

Assonance :

But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports  
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint

The flower of cities – Metaphor

The polished traffic passed with a mind – Transferred Epithet & Personification

Polished traffic – Transferred Epithet

N turned wrong and S turned wrong – Repetition

Or crook-necked ...., Or beauty rest .... – Anaphora & Imagery

The hurt to the scenery – Personification

Trusting sorrow – Transferred Epithet

Here far – Oxymoron

Moving-pictures' promise – Personification

Party in power- Alliteration

Oxymoron and alliteration:

Greedy good-doers

Beneficent beasts of prey

Swarm over their lives – Metaphor

Teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day – Repetition

Sadness that lurks – Personification

Open prayer- biblical Allusion

Squeal – Onomatopoeia

Squeal sound stopping - Sibilance

Selfish cars – Transferred Epithet

This crossly- Repetition

They had none, didn't it see? – Rhetorical Question

In country money, the country scale – Repetition

The voice of the country – Personification

### **Poem-5: Aunt Jennifer's Tigers**

Bright topaz denizens of a world of green – Metaphor & imagery

Men beneath the tree – Imagery

They do not fear ..... They pace in sleek chivalric certainty – Anaphora & Personification.

Sleek chivalric certainty – Personification & Alliteration

Fingers fluttering – Alliteration.

The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band – Hyperbole.

Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand – Personification.

Terrified hands – Transferred Epithet & Synecdoche

Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by – Paradox & Pun

Will go on prancing, proud, and unafraid – Personification & Alliteration

Symbolism :

Aunt Jennifer

Aunt Jennifer's tigers

Aunt Jennifer's hands

Uncle

Ivory needle

Wedding band

## VISTAS

### SR 1. The Third Level

It was a waking dream – Metaphor  
Well, who doesn't – Rhetorical Question  
In and out – Antithesis  
Like a tree – Simile  
Trees whose branches meet overhead- Personification  
Like roots – Simile  
I didn't pass a soul – Synecdoche  
Have you ever been there? Rhetorical Question

### SR 2. Tiger king:

Even the threat of a stuka bomber – Hyperbole  
The stuka, if it likes – Personification  
Ten day infant who had enunciated the words – Hyperbole  
Rather like the bulletins issued by the war office, than facts – Simile  
The bull and the tiger – Personification  
It seemed easier to find tiger's milk than a live tiger. – Simile & Hyperbole  
Khader Mian Saheb or Virasami Naicker, both famed for their ability to swallow sheep whole. – Hyperbole  
Then our state too will fall a prey to national congress – Metaphor  
Tiger launched its satyagraha – Personification  
Rolling his eye in bafflement – Personification  
Conversation between the king and the dewan – Humour  
During the day and the same dream at night – Antithesis  
The tiger farms – Oxymoron  
Hundredth tiger took its final revenge upon tiger king – Personification  
Satire:

Jung Jung bahadur M.A.D

English cow English nanny

The Maharaja was happy that though he had lost three lakh of rupees, he had managed

To retain his kingdom.

Double the land tax

The Maharaja's anxiety reached a fever pitch ... his tally of a hundred – Paradox

Irony:

The operation was successful. The Maharaja is dead.

In this manner the hundredth tiger took its final revenge upon the Tiger King.

### SR 3. The Journey to the end of the earth

Flora and fauna – Alliteration  
Gondwana thrived – Personification  
South Indian like myself – Simile  
It's like walking into a giant ping pong – Simile  
Icebergs as big as countries – Simile

Days go on and on – Repetition  
Barely a few seconds on geographical clock – Metaphor  
Over Nature – Personification  
Villages, towns, cities, megacities – Climax  
Maybe. Maybe not – Antithesis  
Antarctica is a crucial element – Metaphor  
Antarctica, because of her simple – Personification  
The day had managed – Personification  
Whiteness seemed to spread out forever – Hyperbole  
Living, breathing, saltwater – Transferred Epithet  
Like stray dogs – Simile  
Nine time zones, six checkpoints...many ecospheres – Refrain  
How would it be if .... used to be?? – Rhetorical Question  
Will we be around ... rhinos? Who's to say? – Rhetorical Question

#### **SR 4. The Enemy**

Simile:

Like a fowl  
As the old man was.  
Liking the man better now that he was no longer a child.  
Lay like dead  
Like flickers of rumour  
Man like that could be so cruel to a woman  
Cruel to one like this for instance?  
Knowledge of body as if you had made it  
Turned as swiftly as though  
As careful as ever  
Try it twice as long  
Get back your strength as quickly as possible.  
Terror as unmistakable as an animal's  
Absolute state such as Japan was

Metaphor:

They are the stepping Stones to the future for Japan.  
The mists screened them now  
It is only feathers and skeleton  
He was her enemy  
They came like flickers of rumour  
Ignorance of the human body is the surgeon's cardinal sin  
Anything less than that is murder  
Sweeping the bright green carpet constantly  
Marred the velvet its surface  
The flicker of terror  
The atmosphere of his mind  
The General was in the palm of his hands.

South Seas – Sibilance

He had been sent to America to learn – Irony

Clouds were rising from the ocean – Imagery  
Then come creeping up the beach – Personification  
Fling up out of the ocean\_flung – Repetition  
Expert fingers – Transferred Epithet  
Flowed freshly – Alliteration  
Oh – Onomatopoeia  
Trained hands – Transferred Epithet  
Trained hands seemed of their own will to be doing – Personification  
Fearful bleeding – Transferred Epithet  
The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea – Irony  
Unconscious face moved him – Transferred Epithet  
Sleeping face – Transferred Epithet  
Living or dead – Antithesis  
But the children...and she...and moment and smile...play – Polysyndeton  
Wounded him with her rocks – Personification  
They will take revenge on us – Personification  
Could it ever be well to help an enemy? – Rhetorical Question  
You understand we only want...over as a prisoner? – Rhetorical Question  
Is this anything but a man? – Rhetorical Question  
Cool interest – Oxymoron  
Exploring instrument – Transferred epithet  
Remembered such men as GeneralTakima, who at home...Manchuria – Irony  
Would he not be cruel to one like this for instance? – Rhetorical Question  
He felt only the purest pleasure – Irony  
Purest pleasure – Alliteration  
Familiar with every atom of this human body – Hyperbole  
Cardinal sin – Biblical Allusion  
My friend, he always called...that this was his enemy – Irony  
Hush – Onomatopoeia  
Do you want to die? – Rhetorical Question  
Gently and strongly – Antithesis  
Bitter line – Transferred Epithet  
What will be their fate...as a traitor? – Rhetorical question  
Flicker – Repetition  
What were they? – Rhetorical Question  
Southern sunshine – Sibilance  
Suppose you were condemned...to have my operation? – Rhetorical Question  
The operation successful even if I died – Paradox  
How else could rulers deal with those who opposed them? – Rhetorical Question  
Gosh – Onomatopoeia  
Big thin – Oxymoron  
Time and time – Repetition  
Rustling – Onomatopoeia  
Peaceful breathing of sleep – Personification  
Whistling partitions – Transferred Epithet & Onomatopoeia  
Dripping – Onomatopoeia

Running springs – Transferred Epithet  
His terror infected – Personification  
Breathless – Hyperbole  
Find, fresh, fish – Alliteration  
Well, well – Repetition  
I thought nothing but myself – Antithesis  
Zeal against the enemy – Enthusiasm  
Insistent on mercy with the knife – Paradox  
Miserable home – Transferred Epithet  
She was no less repulsive to him in her kindness – Antithesis  
Why I could not kill him? – Rhetorical Question

### **SR:6 On the face of it**

Simile:

A day like this  
Now it's like this  
Like this crab apple  
Like my face  
As old as you  
As much as anywhere  
Worse off than you  
Like a bomb  
Like weren't like them  
I'd like a place like this  
Like a garden  
You're like the others  
Ugly as a devil

Metaphor:

Windfalls in the long grass  
That's magic fruit  
You're a daft  
I am a devil

Rustling – Onomatopoeia  
Mind the apples – Repetition  
What are you afraid of boy? – Rhetorical question  
Empty...an empty - Repetition  
Welcome - Repetition  
No, no - Repetition  
It ate my face up – Personification  
It ate me up – Personification  
There's nothing good made that doesn't interest me – Litotes  
Look – Repetition  
A weed garden – Oxymoron, inversion  
There's fruit and there are flowers and trees and herbs – Polysyndeton  
Green growing – Alliteration

Why is one green growing- plant called a weed and another called flower? – Rhetorical question

I am old, you're young – Antithesis

You've got a burned face, I 've got a tin leg - Antithesis

You're standing there... I'm sitting – Antithesis

Some do, some don't – Antithesis

Crab apples or the weeds or a spider climbing - Polysyndeton

Beauty and the beast – Antithesis, Alliteration

Handsome – Repetition

Only my mother, and ..and I don't like my mother-in-law – Polysyndeton

Ah – Onomatopoeia

Girls – Repetition

You will .But the world won't – Antithesis

The world's got a whole face – Personification

Tin doesn't hurt – Personification

Now and then – Antithesis

Wet weather – Alliteration

Look at all... in pain and brave and and never cry and never complain – Polysyndeton

Never - Repetition

Think, you might ...or born deaf or have.. or be daft – Polysyndeton

Bus stop and she looked... and she looked - Polysyndeton

So you believe everything you hear ,so? - Rhetorical question

Heard – Repetition

Peculiar – Repetition

Bees behind – Alliteration

Buzz – Onomatopoeia

Humm – Onomatopoeia

I hear them singing bees – Irony, Personification

I like it here – Refrain

A bus might run, or a donkey.. or lightning might strike – Polysyndeton

People who saw him would laugh their heads off – Hyperbole, Synecdoche

You still say peculiar things – Refrain

Empty house, but inside, it's full – Antithesis

Shutting things out, shutting things in – Antithesis

Light and darkness – Antithesis

Not altogether - Rhetorical question

Doesn't mean they're enemies - Litotes

Nothing – Repetition

Never just nothing – Litotes

What kind of a world would that be? – Rhetorical qn

So you think you're .... Burned face? – Rhetorical qn

Everything's different. Everything is same – Antithesis

Watching, Listening, Thinking – Climax

The gates always open-minded – Repetition

They might, might not – Repetition & Antithesis

Why should they be? – Rhetorical qn

If you fell and ... grass and die – Polysyndeton  
It's three miles home – Repetition  
You don't know-how – Repetition  
I want – Repetition  
Some do, some don't – Antithesis  
Alive or dead – Antithesis  
You're here all yourself and miserable and ..and nobody cares – Polysyndeton  
And you've got burned face and that's other people – Polysyndeton  
You're frightened of it and if you're not frightened- Antithesis  
Don't you?- Rhetorical qn  
I'm going. But I'll come back – Antithesis  
There my dears , That's you seen to- Soliloquy  
I haven't heard things?-Rhetorical qn  
An old man with a tin leg and,he.. and has a garden-Polysyndeton  
And I want, and sit and ..listen- Polysyndeton  
Bees singing- Personification  
It's want ..and find out and hear- Polysyndeton  
I want- refrain  
Swishes- Onomatopoeia  
Creaks- Onomatopoeia  
You see- Repetition  
He stops dead- Hyperbole  
It's all right – Refrain

## **SR:8 Memories of Childhood**

### **1.The Cutting Of My Long Hair**

Land of apples- metonymy  
It's loud metallic voice- Personification  
Clatter- Onomatopoeia  
Voices murmuring- Personification  
Unknown tongue- Metonymy  
Immodestly dressed than I – Simile  
Looking as uncomfortable – Simile  
Long chain of tables- Metaphor  
Everyone picked up his knife and fork and began eating- Polysyndeton  
Eating by formula- metaphor  
Squeaking shoes- Onomatopoeia  
Crept up the stairs as quietly as I could- simile  
Nearer- Repetition  
I held my breath and watched them... and peep behind large trucks- Polysyndeton  
Cold blades- Pun and transferred epithet  
Air like a wooden puppet- Simile  
Shingled like a coward's- Simile  
Not a soul respond- Synecdoche  
As my own mother- Simile  
One of many animals driven by a herder- Metaphor

## **2. We Too Are Human Beings**

It would take... all the fun and ... novelties and oddities... shops and bazaar- Polysyndeton

Time- Repetition

Peddalling as hard as he cold- Simile

The dried fish stall by the statue of Gandhi- Irony

The street light always demonstrating – personification

Oh- Onomatopoeia

The dried fish stall, narikkuravan huntergypsy ,selling needles...instruments for cleaning ears- Visual Imagery

No magic, no miracle- Metaphor

Then there might be a street play, or a puppet show, or a magic- Polysyndeton

All these sights taken together would tether my legs- Personification

There would be... palm-syrup and palm fruit, guavas and Jack fruit- Polysyndeton

Every day .... Selling sweet and savoury... tamarind seeds and iced lollies-Polysyndeton

Round- Repetition

Mango, cucumber, sugercane, sweet potato- Gustatory imagery

Shriek- Onomatopoeia

A big man carrying a small packet- Antithesis

I fell about with laughter- Hyperbole

Vadai had been wrapped first in a banana leaf, and then parcelled in paper?- Rhetorical qn

Such an important ... fetch snacks and hands.. and shrinking... and stuffs- Polysyndeton

How was it that these fellows thought so much of themselves- Rhetorical qn

Too are human beings- Refrain

Honour or dignity or respect- Polysyndeton

So study with care,learn all you can- Asyndeton

The words that Annan spoke to me that day made...people became my friends- Climax

With all my breath and being- Synecdoche