

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 onlysurrounding 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