Ballad
A Ballad is a poem or song narrating a story in short stanzas, often of folk origin and intended to be sung.

The poem, "Aunt Martha's Sheep" by Ellis Coles exemplifies the form of a ballad because the poem follows the same scheme as a ballad. The poem contains stanzas which rhyme and have a rhythm and tells a short story about a group of men who steal "Aunt Martha's Sheep" and eat it with the Mountie to get rid of the evidence, telling the Mountie that the meat is moose.

The speaker in this ballad is Ellis Coles. The audience of this ballad is anyone who reads, or listens to it because he speaks directly to "you". The setting of this ballad is in Carmanville, Newfoundland near Joe Tulk's hill on a November evening.

The poet, Ellis Coles uses imagery effectively by lightly describing the smells and sights of the ballad. An example of this would be describing the sheep as a, "wooly animal" most of us are familiar with the feel of wool and the sight of a sheep. Another example would be the smell of the sheep cooking with onions "mutton and onions", this appeals to your sense of smell and the familiarity of onions cooking with meat.

The tone or mood of the ballad, "Aunt Martha's Sheep" is supposed to be funny and humorous. The poet, Ellis Coles even states, "Now if you pay attention I know I'll make you laugh".

Other prominent poetic devices used in this ballad are alliteration (Novembers night, little lamb, that those, she said she'd), Irony (The Mountie ate the most of the sheep that was stolen that he was looking for the thief's of), personification (The old cow getting angry and the sheep says good-bye to the lamb), rhythm (the ballad has musical quality produced by the repetition of stressed and unstressed syllables and/or by the repetition of certain other sound patterns), and end rhymes (each line has an AABBCD etc. format).
Elegy

An elegy is a poem that has a serious reflection, and a mournful style to it. It is also typically a lament for the dead.

O captain! My captain!
-Walt Whitman

O Captain! My Captain! Our fearful trip is done,
The ship has weathered every rack,
The prize we sought is won,
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;
But O Heart! Heart! Heart!
O the bleeding drops of red
Where on the deck my captain lies
Fallen cold and dead
O Captain! My captain!
Rise up and hear the bells;
Rise up-For you the flag is flung for you the bugle thrills
For you bouquet and ribbon’d wreathes for you the shores a-crowding
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;
Here Caption! Dear father!
This arm beneath your head!
It is some dream that on deck
You’ve fallen cold and dead
My caption does not answer
His lips are pale and still
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse or will;
The ship is anchored safe and sound
It’s voyage closed and done;
From fearful ship to victory ship comes in with object won;
Exult O shores, and right O bells!
But I, with mournful tread
Walk the deck my Captain lies
Fallen cold and dead.

The poem “O’ Captain! My Captain” exemplifies an elegy because where as an elegy shows mourning, and it is lamenting the dead, this poem is as well, it is mourning the loss of their beloved Captain, whom didn’t get to see all the faces waiting for him on shore.

This poem is being spoken in the first person point of view; they use words like “I” and “we”. Although we do not know what the gender of the speaker us, we know that the Captain of the ship is their father. As for the audience, they are beginning to wonder what is going to happen when the people on shore find out that the Captain
lies lifeless, and they are returning to a shore, though to their home, that has started to crowd with people.

Imagery in this poem by the author would be where they say “O the bleeding drops of red where on the deck my Captain lies, fallen cold and dead”. This gives you the picture of a man lying on the ships deck, in what seems to be a Captains uniform with blood surrounding the lifeless body. The writer also included other senses like our sense of sound when they say they can hear the bells ringing, but also our sense of touch by saying the body is cold and dead. We all know how it feels to be cold, and many know how it feels mentally too know someone has died.

The tone in the poem we have been giving is sad, this is because of the repeating use of “fallen cold and dead” and how they are continuously writing about how they have set out for and completed what they had to do, but he still cannot be happy while his captain lies lifeless in front of him. The mood of this poem is sad as well, he speaks of how the people are happy to see the ship returning all for their eager faces to drop when they start to understand what is going on, and why the speaker is sad even though they have won.

The prominent poetic devices that stand out to us in this poem are the use of the repetition of the word “Captain”. Also the contrast between the speaker and the people surrounding them. They are all eager for the ship to drop the anchor and learn about their winnings, all while the speaker doesn’t want to leave the ship, and explain what has happened to their beloved captain while on the weathered trip.
Narrative

Narrative: a poem which tells a story, often using the voices of a narrator and other characters. These poems may be short or long, and may have a complex story. Narrative poems include epics, ballads, idylls and lays.

Example:

The Charge of the Light Brigade

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns" he said:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred

"Forward, the Light Brigade!"
Was there a man dismay'd?
Not tho' the soldiers knew
  Someone had blunder'd:
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

Cannon to the right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
  Volley'd and thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell,
They that had fought so well
Came thro' the jaws of Death,
Back from the mouth of Hell,
All that was left of them,
Left of six hundred.

When can their glory fade?
O the wild charge they made!
All the world wonder'd:
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade,
Noble six hundred
How your poem exemplifies the form:

This poem is an example of a narrative because it is like a ballad or song that tells us a story about the “charge of the light Brigade”. Also the poem has a “beginning”, “middle”, and “end” because the light brigade goes into battle, they are then in battle, and in the end they are honoring the light brigade. Sometimes a narrative poem can be confused with an ode. The difference between the two is a narrative tells a story stressing details of plot, incident, and action, and an ode is more of a song.

Speaker/audience/setting

The speaker of this poem is from a narrator’s point of view who is describing the charge of the brigade. The audience of this poem could be war veterans or teen and adults because a young kid may not understand the references to war and the vocabulary used to describe it throughout the poem. The setting of the poem is in the “valley of death” or battle field.

Imagery

There are many examples of imagery throughout this poem such as referring to the battle field as a “valley of death”. This makes the thought of a battle field worse by helping you visualize how harsh the conditions actually are. Also when he referred to the battle as the “jaws of Death” this helped the reader visualize the brigade approaching a very dangerous situation.

Tone/mood

The tone of the speaker in this poem is a very positive tone and he seems to have confidence in the Brigade entering the battle. Because the speaker has a confident tone the mood of the poem is positive despite the topic. This just shows they had confidence in their men.

Poetic devices

There are many examples of rhyme and rhythm throughout this poem. There are riming words such as wondered and hundred, dismayed and brigade, well and hell, and so on. There are also examples of imagery throughout this poem such as “the mouth of hell”. This is also an example of personification.
What is an Ode?

An ode is a lyrical poem in the form of an address to a particular subject, often elevated in style or manner and written in varied or irregular meter.

This is an example of an Ode:

Happy the man, whose wish and care
A few paternal acres bound,
Content to breathe his native air,
In his own ground.

Whose herds with milk, whose fields with bread,
Whose flocks supply him with attire,
Whose trees in summer yield him shade,
In winter fire.

Blest! Who can unconcern’dly find
Hours, days, and years slide soft away,
In health of body, peace of mind,
Quiet by day.

Sound sleep by night; study and ease
Together mixed; sweet recreation
And innocence, which most does please
With meditation.
Thus let me live, unseen, unkown;
Thus unlamented let me die;
Steal from the world and not a stone.
Tell where I lie.
THE FORM:

An ode consists of the strophe, the antistrophe, and the epode. Different forms such as the homostrophic ode and the irregular ode also exist. It is an elaborately structured poem praising an event or individual, describing nature intellectually as well as emotionally.

A strophe is meant to be as the first stanza of an ode. Ode’s are usually in forms of a song, so this would be like the first verse. In this poem, rhyming is used to capture and sustain the author’s attention.

SPEAKER:

Depending on the ode, the audience should be very taken in by what is being said. Such as songs do. Odes can be very descriptive and give great imagery to readers/listeners.

In this poem, the speaker is the writer. We know this because he is talking in a first person context. There is no directed audience for this poem.

IMAGERY:

Imagery is shown when it says “whose trees in summer yield him with shade in winter fire”.

PROMINENT POETIC DEVICES:

Odes can be very symbolic too anything. Odes have a wide variety of topics, and can become a symbol basically no matter how you write it. Similies, alliteration and rhyming are common in odes, because they are all catchy and attention getting such as lyrics are in a song. Odes do not have a certain way to be written. Poetic devices such as diction, symbolism, similes and metaphors are not necessary to be put into odes to make them “correct”. There are no certain poetic devices pointed out in this poem.

DIFFERENCES:

Some people confuse an ode with a ballad because of their “song-like” stanzas. The ballad is written to be sung, and an ode is more of a serious subject (tone/mood).
The Sonnet

What is a sonnet?

A sonnet is a form of a poem that originated in Europe, mainly Italy. They commonly contain 14 lines. The term "sonnet" derives from the Italian word "sonetto," meaning "little sound." By the thirteenth century, it signified a poem of fourteen lines that follows a strict rhyme scheme and specific structure. Writers of sonnets are sometimes called "sonneteers," although the term can be used derisively. One of the best-known sonnet writers is William Shakespeare, who wrote 154 of them (not including thought that appear in his plays).

Sonnet 18, by William Shakespeare

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines
By chance our nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall no fade
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou growest:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.

Paraphrase of Sonnet 18 by William Shakespeare

Shall I compare you to a summer's day?
You are more lovely and more constant;
Rough winds shake the beloved buds of May
And summer is far too short;
At times the sun is too hot,
Or often goes behind the clouds;
And everything beautiful sometimes will lose its beauty,
By misfortune or by nature’s planned out course.
But your youth shall not fade,
Nor will you lose the beauty that you possess;
Nor will death claim you for his own,
Because in my eternal verse you will live forever.
So as long as there are people on this earth,
So long will this poem live on, making you immortal

How does the poem sonnet 18 exemplify the form of a sonnet?

The poem Sonnet 18 by William Shakespeare exemplifies the form of a sonnet by including 14 lines within a one stanza form. Sonnet 18 follows the strict rhyme scheme of a-b-a-b,c-d-c-d,e-f-e-f,g-g. Each line contains ten syllables and written in iambic pentameter.

What is iambic pentameter?

Iambic pentameter is a commonly used metrical line in traditional verse and verse drama. The term describes the particular rhythm that the words establish in that line. That rhythm is measured in small groups of syllables; these small groups are called “feet.” The word “iambic” describes the type of foot that is used. The word “pentameter” indicates that a line has five of these “feet.”

Who is speaker, the audience and what is the setting?

The speaker of the poem is the writer, William Shakespeare and the audience is a woman as he compares her to a summer’s day. The setting of Sonnet 18 is held in Elizabethan-time England in a wooded area or valley on a hot day in the middle of May as the speaker describes rough winds does shake the darling buds of May.
What is Imagery?

Imagery is the use of figurative language in a piece of work such as writing. Other examples of figurative language include similes, metaphors, alliteration and personification.

Is there use of imagery in Sonnet 18?

Yes there is use of imagery in Sonnet 18 by William Shakespeare, an example is “rough winds shake the beloved buds of May,” this is an example of personification (giving human qualities to the non-living).

What is the overall tone or ‘mood’ of the poem?

The tone of sonnet 18 by William Shakespeare is relaxed and very calm as he compares a woman to different aspects of the spring and summer seasons.

Prominent poetic devices

The only poetic device that stands out in Sonnet 18 is the use of personification as the writer gives the human quality of shaking to the wind as it shakes the flower buds in May.
Villanelle

1. Villanelle: The poetic form of a Villanelle is a highly structured nineteen line poem with two repeating rhymes and two refrains. The form is made up of five tercets followed by a quatrain. The first and third lines of the opening tercet are repeated alternately in the last line of the succeeding stanzas; then in the final stanza, the refrain serves as the poem’s two concluding lines.

2. Our Villanelle poem was Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night by Dylan Thomas.

Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night
Dylan Thomas

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there in the sad height,
Curse, bless me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
3. Our poem clearly exemplifies the form of a villanelle. Our poem consists of 5 stanzas. Four stanzas that contain 3 lines and a final fifth stanza which contains 4 lines. The poem has a rhyme scheme of “abc abc” and ends in a rhyming couplet in the fifth stanza.

4. The speaker in the poem “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night” would a person urging his father to struggle mightily with death. The author Dylan Thomas, at the time, was upset about his own father’s declining health and impending death. So it is believed that Thomas is the speaker in this poem.

This poem does not have one setting – it has many. Over the course of the nineteen lines, Thomas takes us from a lingering sunset to a bolt of lighting, from a green bay extending out from the seashore to a shooting star blazing across the sky, and finally to the top of a mountain. These places however aren’t real, they are metaphorical descriptions of life, death, and struggle.

5. The imagery in this poem is shown all throughout. Some examples would be “Because their words had forked no lightning they,” “Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,” “Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,” and “Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay.” Of course, the whole time we’re travelling through nature, the speaker is really at the bedside of his dying father.

6. The tone of a piece of writing reveals the attitudes and presuppositions of the author. In this poem the author’s tone shows signs of determination and fight. In stanza one it reads “Old age should burn and rave at close of day; / Rage, rage against the dying light.” This reading exemplifies the author’s determination to live and not fall victim to death. Words such as “rage” and “burn” play a role in determining the author’s tone.

7. Poetic devices that stand out are similes and repetition. In stanza 4 line 2 it reads, “Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,” this simile talks about the dying eyes of an old man coming back to life and lighting up like a meteor and being happy again. An example of repetition that seemed to stand out was the use of the line “rage, rage against the dying of the light” four times throughout the poem, all of them being the last line of the stanza. The use of this line showed emphasis on this particular part of the poem.