AP LIT. LITERARY DEVICES LIST

You are responsible for owning all terms on this list EXCEPT terms in Italics. For italic terms, you should be familiar with them, but you will not need to define them explicitly. They appear in Multiple Choice, but far less frequently than most. They are also sometimes helpful to include in your essays, but again, not required.

GENERAL LITERARY DEVICES

Allegory
Anachronism
Analogy
Anecdote
Archetypes
   (Hero, Anti-hero, Tragic Hero)
Characterization
   (Protagonist, Antagonist, Static, Dramatic,
    Major, Minor, Caricature)
Dialect
   (Colloquialism, Regional, Register)
Dialogue
Foil/Doppelganger
Hubris
In Medias Res
Irony
   (Situational, Dramatic, Verbal)
Mood/atmosphere
Narrator (Unreliable)
Pathetic fallacy
Perspective
Rhetoric
Theme
Verisimilitude
Word Play
   (Pun, Idiom, Oxymoron, Aphorism, Euphemism,
    Paradox, Malapropism)

Figurative Language

Allusion
Apostrophe
Connotation
   Imagery
Hyperbole vs. Understatement
Metaphor/Extended Metaphor
Metonymy
Motif/Controlling Image
Personification
Simile (Epic Simile)

Symbolism
Synecdoche
Synesthesia

Style and Terms Related to Style

Diction (Connotation/Denotation)
Mood
Satire
Tone

Sound Devices

Alliteration
Assonance
Cacophony
Consonance
Euphony
Onomatopoeia
Repetition (Refrain, Anaphora, Epiphora)
Rhyme
Rhythm

Structure and Terms Related to Structure

Antithesis
Chiasmus
Epigraph
Plot Structure
   Prologue/Epilogue
   Exposition
   Crisis
   Inciting Moment
   Rising Action
   Climax/ Anti-Climax
   Falling Action
   Resolution
   Denouement

Poetry
Point of view (First, Second, Third-person
Omniscient, and Third-person Limited)

Prose
Rhetorical Questions
Syntax (Anastrophe, Anaphora)
NOVEL Exclusive Devices
Frame stories
Foreshadowing
Flashback
Genre (Hero’s journey, Bildungsroman, Novella, Dystopian, etc.)

POETRY Exclusive Devices
Blank verse
Cacophony
Cadence
Conceit
Euphony
Enjambment
Free verse
Metric Foot (Iambic, Trochee, Anapest, Dactyl, Spondee)
Meter/Scansion (Monometer, Dimeter, Trimeter, Tetramer, Pentamer, Hexamer)
Punctuation (Ellipsis, Dash, Caesura, Accent, Stressed, Unstressed)
Repetition (Refrain, Anaphora, Epiphora)
Rhyme (Slant, Internal, End, Rhyming Couplet, Capping Couplet)
Rhyme Scheme
Stanza (Quatrain, Tercet, Couplet)
Shift
Types: Sonnet, Ballad, Pastoral, Epic, Ode, Elegy/Dirge/Requiem, Sestina, Villanelle, Lyric, Prose,
Narrative, Dramatic Monologue, Haiku, Carpe Diem, Lament, Metaphysical Poets/Poems

DRAMA Exclusive Devices
Act
Aside
Catharsis
Chorus
Comedic Relief
Hamartia (Tragic Flaw)
Lines
Monologue
Playwright
Peripeteia
Prologue
Scene
Setting
Soliloquy
Stage Directions
Stichomythia

Discussion Words (to use for any work)
Aesthetics
Ambiguity
Canon
Complexity
Contrast
Didactic
Digression/Tangent
Dissonance
Epiphany
Juxtaposition
Kinetic
Literary Merit
Shift
Tension
Unity
Voice

AP Essay Go-To Devices (most frequently in prompts or easy-to-find/explain devices)
*Characterization
Dialogue
*Diction
*Imagery
*Tone
Perspective
Repetition
Selection of detail
Structure
Style
Symbolism
*Theme