

## Literary Terms Quick Reference

**Alliteration** The repetition of initial speech sounds, typically (but not always) consonants, in nearby words or accented syllables

Ex: pet / approach / pound

**Allusion** A reference, explicit or indirect, to a well-known person, place, event, or to another literary work or passage.

Ex: O, my offence is rank it smells to heaven;  
It hath the primal eldest curse upon't,  
A brother's murder.

*Hamlet 3.3*

**Assonance** The repetition of identical or similar vowel sounds, especially in stressed syllables, in a sequence of nearby words

Ex: up / sun / come

**Consonance** the repetition of a sequence of two or more consonants , but with a change in the intervening vowel

Ex: let / light / late

Adapted from:

Abrams, M. H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Holt, Rhinehart, and Winston, 1988.