Glossary of Key Terms

poesía / spoken-word poetry: poetry that is meant to be spoken, usually with a purpose; conveys a strong message about people and society

poetry slam: a competition in which poets perform their poems and are scored by a panel of judges

Poetic Devices

• símil / simile: comparing two things using “like” or “as”

• metáfora / metaphor: comparing two things using “is”

• personificación / personification: giving life to an inanimate object or animal by describing it with human-like characteristics

• repetición / repetition: repeating a word or phrase to add emphasis

• imagenería / imagery: using sensory details that describe how something looks, tastes, feels, sounds, or smells

Delivery Techniques

• articulación / enunciation: clear pronunciation and delivery of words

• crescedo and decrescendo: a change in the volume of delivery (crescendo is a gradual increase; decrescendo, a gradual decrease), which is used to build emotion in a poem

• énfasis / emphasis: a strong force used with certain words or phrases to draw attention to them

• tempo / tempo: the speed of speech; changing it adds variety and creates a feeling or mood in certain parts of a poem

• pausa / pause: a moment of silence that lets the words soak in

• ritmo /rhythm: the distinct beat and rhythm of a poem, distinguishing it from a monotone narrative