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: