Key Terms

- **iambic pentameter** – a metrical pattern of poetry which consists of five iambic per line (unstressed syllable followed by stressed syllable); typical of Shakespeare’s writing
- **soliloquy** – a character, speaking to self, reveals their feelings through speech dramatic
- **monologue** – a type of lyric poem in which the speaker (or character) addresses a silent audience imaged to be present; the speaker often reveals a dramatic situation and may also reveal aspects of personality
- **aside** – a speech in a drama directed at the audience that is not heard by the other characters members on stage
- **enjambment** – when one line of poetry ends without a pause and continues into the next line for its meaning.
- **allusion** – a brief reference to a person, place, thing, event or idea in history or literature paradox – a statement that at first seems to be contradictory but after close inspection may in fact make sense
- **Irony** – literary device that uses contradictory statements or situations to reveal a difference between reality and what appears to be true.
- **Dramatic Irony** – a discrepancy between what a character thinks is real and what the reader or audience knows is real
- **Verbal Irony** – a figure of speech when someone says something but means the exact opposite
- **Situational Irony** – an incongruity between that which is expected to happen and what actually happens
- **tragic flaw** – an error, folly, vice, defect that leads to the downfall of a character
- **foil** – a character in a work who acts in contrast to another character, may include contrasting behavior and values; goal of the foil is to reveal the temperament of the other character
- **anagnorisis** - a moment in a play or other work when a character makes a critical discovery
- **peripeteia** - a reversal of circumstances, or turning point
- **hamartia** - a missing the mark, failure, fault, or error; can be considered the fatal flaw
- **hubris** - extreme pride or arrogance; often indicates a loss of contact with reality and an overestimation of one’s own competence or capabilities
- **catharsis** - a sudden emotional breakdown or climax that constitutes overwhelming feelings of great pity, sorrow, laughter, or any extreme change in emotion that results in renewal, restoration, and revitalization
- **mimesis** - the act of resembling, imitate
• **deus ex machina** - a plot device whereby a seemingly unsolvable problem is suddenly and abruptly solved with the contrived and unexpected intervention of some new event, character, ability, or object

• **Dionysian** – causing chaos

• **Apollonian** – making order