Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Poetry Pre-Test**

The following test is not scored, it is an assessment of what you know about poetry. Please answer to the best of your ability. I would prefer an educated guess to a blank answer.

**Section I. Matching**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Alliteration** **A**. The use of a word whose sound suggests or

imitates its meaning

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Apostrophe** **B**. The writer or speaker’s choice of words,

depending on the audience

1. \_\_\_\_\_**Assonance**  **C**. The running on of thought from one line

to the next without a syntactical break

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Caesura** D. Repeated consonant sounds within

the words of a line of poetry

1. \_\_\_\_\_**Conceit** **E**. A play on multiple meanings of a word; two

words that sound alike but different meanings

1. \_\_\_\_\_**Connotation**  **F**. A generally regular pattern of stressed and

unstressed syllables in poetry

1. \_\_\_\_\_**Consonance** **G**. Repetition of similar vowel sounds in

words that are close together in a poem

1. \_\_\_\_\_**Diction** **H**. The attitude a writer takes toward the

audience, subject, or character

1. \_\_\_\_\_**Elegy** **I**. The pattern of rhymes in a poem
2. \_\_\_\_\_**Enjambment** **J**. The use of extravagant exaggeration
3. \_\_\_\_\_**Figure of Speech**  **K**. Repetition of consonant sounds at the

beginning of words in a line of poetry

1. \_\_\_\_\_**Foot** **L**. A poetic device used to address absent or

nonliving objects as if they were present or alive

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Hyperbole** **M**. An extended metaphor that makes a

complex comparison

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Imagery** **N**. The implied or suggested meanings of a

word

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Metaphor** **O**. A mournful, melancholic or plaintive poem;

a lament for the dead

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Meter** **P**. A unit of measure in a poem
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Onomatopoeia** **Q**. A pause within a line of poetry
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Personification** **R**. Special kind of metaphor in which a non-

human thing is talked about as if it were human

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Pun** **S**. A word or phrase that describes things in

in terms of another, not to be taken literally

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Rhyme Scheme** **T**. A figure of speech that makes a comparison

using “like,” “as,” “resembles,” or “than”

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Simile** **U**. Language that appeals to the senses
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Tone** **V**. A figure of speech that makes a comparison

between two things without helping words

**Section II. Poem Study**

1. Find five (5) examples of sound patterns (AS, AL, O). Make sure that you include at least one example of each type of sound pattern.
2. Also, find three (3) examples of figurative language (M, S, P) and clearly label each.

**Here is some help for the poem**, “Root Cellar.” A root cellar was/is found in many farmhouses as a kind refrigeration space. It is typically in the basement and contains flower and plant bulbs that are being saved for spring planting. The room or cellar may even have a dirt floor, even if the basement was cement. In the poem the word “chink” refers to a small opening. The word “silo” means a place where farmers keep their corn or grain; it usually cylindrical (like a Pringle’s can).

# Root Cellar

## Theodore Roethke

Nothing would sleep in that cellar, dank as a ditch,

Bulbs broke out of boxes hunting for chinks in the dark,

Shoots dangled and drooped,

Lolling obscenely from mildewed crates,

Hung down long yellow evil necks, like tropical snakes.

And what a congress of stinks!

Roots ripe as old bait,

Pulpy stems, rank, silo-rich,

Leaf-mold, manure, lime, piled against slippery planks.

Nothing would give up life:

Even the dirt kept breathing a small breath.

**Section III. Scansion**

Mark the rhyme scheme and meter for the following poem.

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?   
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:   
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,   
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:   
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,   
And often is his gold complexion dimmed,   
And every fair from fair sometime declines,   
By chance, or nature's changing course untrimmed:   
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,   
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,   
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,   
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st,   
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,   
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

What kind of poem is this?

**Poetry Pre-Test Answer Key**

**AP Lit**

**Section I. Matching**

1. K
2. L
3. G
4. Q
5. M
6. N
7. D
8. B
9. O
10. C
11. S
12. P
13. J
14. U
15. V
16. F
17. A
18. R
19. E
20. I
21. T
22. H

**Section II. Poem Study**

**Assonance**: hunting for chinks in (2), shoots dangled and drooped (3), lolling obscenely (4), yellow evil necks (5), what a congress (6), lime, piled (9)

**Alliteration**: dank as a ditch (1), bulbs broke out of boxes (2), Roots ripe (7), stems, rank, silo-rich (8), mold, manure (9), piled against slippery planks (9), breathing a small breath (11)

**Onomatopoeia**: N/A

Metaphors: congress of stinks (6)

**Similes**: dank as a ditch (1), lie tropical snakes (5), roots ripe as old bait (7)

**Personification**: hunting (2), evil (5), breathing a small breath (11)

**Section III. Scansion**

**Rhyme scheme**: ABABCDCDEFEFGG

**Meter**: Iambic pentameter (unstressed, stressed, unstressed, stressed, etc.)

**What kind of poem is this**: A Shakespearean Sonnet