AP Glossary Terms

1. Anaphora – repetition of an opening phrase in a series of lines of poetry
2. Approximate rhyme – near rhyme, slant rhyme; (push/rush)
3. Aside – a character speaks on stage so that the audience is included but not the other characters
4. Aubade – poem about dawn
5. Cacophony – unpleasing sound; harsh sounding
6. Ceasura – a pause in a line of poetry
7. Flat character – a character who can be summed up easily with one or two traits
8. Chorus – masked singers and dancers who acted like a narrator in Greek drama
9. Consonance – repetition of consonant sounds in the middle or at the end of words
10. Denouement – final plot outcome; the plot is manifest to the reader
11. Deus ex machine – God in the machine; a highly dubious and contrived plot outcome; a go or goddess comes in at the last minute to save the day like a superhero
12. Didactic prose – writing meant to morally instruct the reader
13. Editorializing – writing that inserts personal opinions of characters or events
14. English sonnet – abab, cdcd, efef, gg rhyme scheme; iambic pentameter; 14 lines
15. Epiphany – moment a character has a spiritual insight or awakening
16. Feminine rhyme – two or more syllables rhyme (ceiling/appealing)
17. Figurative language – language employing poetry devices such as simile or metaphor
18. Fixed-form poem – sonnet, haiku, villanelle, sestina
19. Hamartia – when a character in Greek drama unwittingly commits a criminal act (associated with the downfall of the tragic hero); a tragic flaw
20. Hexameter – six feet in a line of poetry (if iambic it would contain 12 syllables)
21. Iamb – metrical foot containing an unaccented syllable followed by an accented syllable
22. Iambic pentameter – a line with 5 iambs (10 syllables)
23. Imagery – language that is quite descriptive a appeals to the senses
24. Indirect characterization – we must infer a character’s traits by what they do
25. Italian sonnet also Petrarchan sonnet – a sonnet containing an octave and a sestet (8-lined stanza and a 6-lined stanza) with a rhyme scheme of abbaabba cdcdcd or cdecde
26. Masculine rhyme – the rhyme is at the end of the word in the final syllable
27. Metonymy or synecdoche – the part for the whole or something closely related (three badges came into the bar) badges = police officers
28. Octave – 8-lined stanza
29. Scansion – the process of dividing lines of poetry into feet and marking the accented and unaccented syllables (get a life right?)
30. Maudlin; melodrama; sentimentality – all could be described as overly sentimental and shooting for tears
31. Sestet – six lines at the end of an Italian (Petrarchan) sonnet
32. Spondee – two words with equal accents (*true blue* American)
33. Stream of consciousness – the pt. of view is from a character’s mind without any comments by the author such as “he thought to himself”
34. Synesthesia – one sense experience is described with another sense experience (He breathed in the beautiful sunset)
35. Tone – the writer’s attitude toward the subject he or she is writing about, usually the tone comes from certain adjectives and adverbs used to describe the person or event (tone words: respectful; resentful; regretful; sarcastic; bitter; loving; admiring)
36. Villanelle – 19-lined poem consisting of 5 tercets of aba rhyme scheme and a quatrain abaa rhyme scheme. The 1st and 3rd lines of stanza one are repeated throughout the poem
37. Paradox – a seemingly contradictory phrase which contains a deeper truth such as the advice in writing class that *less is more*.
38. Juxtaposition – the conscious placing of two images, characters, or events side by side for emphasis of one or the other
39. Motif – a recurring theme, symbol, character, or even word in literature
40. Diction – the author’s choice of words