

Devices

Rhyme relies on repetition: *pink drink*,
big wig, tramp stamp, rank skank. Alliteration

too: Peter piper's pickled peppers, silly
Sally's sheep – *silly* trumping *smart* because

the *lls* create consonance. Assonance
repeats vowel sounds: *hot bod, dumb slut, frigid bitch*.

Even his line — “Girl, we’ll have a *fine time*”—
or her refusals — “*No! Don’t!*” In metaphor

we compare two things. Suppose a man calls
a woman *fox*; we understand this is

not literal. Same goes for *pig, dog, bitch*.
Same goes for *octopus*, as in, “He was

an *octopus*; his hands were all over me.”
Metonymy relies on association:

suits, skirts, that joke about the dishwasher –
If it stops working, slap the bitch! Synecdoche

reduces a thing to a single part:
he wants *pussy*, by which we must infer

he wants a woman, as the part does not
exist without the whole. Context changes

everything, and while repetition is
not truth, power lies in words we hear repeated.

We’ve been called so many things that we are not,
we startle at the sound of our own names.