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## The Power of Stylistic Devices in Annabel Lee

Love is powerful. It is described as one of the strongest emotions one can feel towards someone else, and the bond between two lovers is not easily broken. Edgar Allan Poe expresses this in his emotional poem, "Annabel Lee." Poe demonstrates the theme of young, passionate love in "Annabel Lee" through the use of stylistic devices such as repetition, personification, and similes.

Repetition of words and phrases in "Annabel Lee" help to emphasize admiration and adoration towards Annabel Lee from the speaker. In the poem, Poe uses repetition to bring attention to Annabel Lee's beauty, repeating phrases such as "My beautiful Annabel Lee;" (16), and "Of the beautiful Annabel Lee," (33,35,37), making the speaker's opinion of Annabel Lee's beauty quite clear. Repetition in writing suggests that what is being repeated is of great importance in the piece of writing. The speaker of the poem expresses strong affection towards Annabel Lee in the line, "Of my darling- my darling- my life and my bride" (39), using repetition of the words "my darling" to emphasize how much Annabel Lee means to the speaker. Repetition is a strong and beautiful way to emphasize the speaker's feelings for Annabel Lee, as well as personification.

Personification in "Annabel Lee" allows the speaker to express his love in creative phrases that transform words into beautiful detailed images, allowing his emotion to be brought to life and express his love in a life-like manner. Poe uses personification to

demonstrate how the love between Annabel Lee and the speaker was special and sacred, "With a love that the winged seraphs in heaven/ coveted her and me" (11-12), suggesting that even angels in heaven protected and valued the love between Annabel Lee and the speaker. Later on in the poem, the speaker goes on to tell how Annabel Lee passes away. Personification is used to describe how the speaker will never forget his beloved Annabel Lee even after she is gone, "for the moon never beams without bringing me dreams/ of the beautiful Annabel Lee" (34-35), suggesting that not a night goes by without memory of Annabel Lee creeping into the speaker's mind. Similes used in the poem further describe intense affection towards Annabel Lee, just as personification does in the poem. ✓

*value word* Similes demonstrate how great the speaker's love is for Annabel Lee through the use of powerful comparisons. For example, the speaker uses a simile to compare their young, innocent love to those older and presumably smarter than them, "But our love it was stronger by far than the love/ of the who were older than we-/ of many far wiser than we-" (27-29). This simile reveals that the love between Annabel Lee and the speaker was strong and unbreakable, regardless of their young age. The speaker goes on to describe how strong and unwavering their love was, and once again, uses a bold *value word* simile, "But we loved with a love that was more than love" (9). This shows that their love was so strong and so grand, that it was more powerful than love itself could ever be. Similes in the poem allow the speaker to express his love dramatically in a fitting way. ✓

"Annabel Lee" includes many stylistic devices that allow the speaker to portray his thoughts and feelings in great detail, demonstrating a theme of young, passionate love. Repetition emphasizes great love and affection towards Annabel Lee, and portrays intense

emotion. Personification describes love and emotion in life-like, poetic phrases, bringing emotion in the poem to life. Similes allow the speaker to express intense emotion by comparing his love to things and ideas that show just how passionate and fervent his feelings for Annabel Lee are. Stylistic devices are a great way to bring detail, imagination, and interest into poems, and aid in portraying deep emotion and meaning into any writing.

## Works Cited

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Poetry Foundation. *The Poetry Foundation*. 2014. Web. 25 February 2015.

