Simile, Metaphor, Personification, and Stanza

Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will be able to identify simile, metaphor, personification, and stanzas in a poem. This DLA should take approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete.

1. Go to the reception desk and check out The Bedford Introduction to Literature by Michael Meyer. You will need a student ID card or a driver’s license to check this book out for use in the lab.

2. Turn to the glossary and look up to review these literary terms: simile, metaphor, personification, and stanza. On the back of this sheet, write definitions of these terms in your own words.

3. Read the following poem:

   “Symphony in Yellow” Oscar Wilde

   An omnibus across the bridge
       Crawls like a yellow butterfly
           And, here and there, a passer-by
       Shows like a little restless midge.

       Big barges full of yellow hay
           Are moored against the shadowy wharf,
               And, like a yellow silken scarf,
       The thick fog hangs along the quay.

       The yellow leaves begin to fade
           And flutter down the Temple elms,
               And at my feet the pale green Thames
       Lies like a rod of rippled jade.

4. Answer the following questions:
   
   i. What are the four similes in the poem?

   ii. Explain how the title is a metaphor.

   iii. Where does the author use personification?

   iv. Mark out the rhyming pattern in each stanza.
5. Meet with a professor to go over your answers and discuss WHY the author uses these literary devices in his poem. How do they add to the overall meaning of his poem?

Attach a confirmation sheet or get a signature below:

Instructor Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________________