**LITERARY DEVICES –Read and annotate Ode II for as many of the literary devices below:**

Some of the things you may want to mark as you notice them are:

• Use an **S for Symbols**: A symbol is a literal thing that also stands for something else, like a flag, or a cross, or fire. Symbols help to discover new layers of meaning.

• Use an **I for Imagery:** Imagery includes words that appeal to one or more of the five senses. Close attention to imagery is important in understanding an author’s message and attitude toward a subject.

• Use an **F for Figurative Language:** Figurative language includes things like similes, metaphors, and personification. Figurative language often reveals deeper layers of meaning.

• Use a **T for Tone:** Tone is the overall mood of a piece of literature. Tone can carry as much meaning to the story as the plot does.

• Use a **Th – Theme:** In literature, a theme is a broad idea in a story, or a message or lesson conveyed by a work. This message is usually about life, society or human nature. Themes explore timeless and universal ideas. Most themes are implied rather than explicitly stated.

• Plot elements (setting, mood, conflict, etc.)

• Diction (effective or unusual word choice)

**Chorus.** Fortunate is the man who has never tasted God’s vengeance! Where once the anger of heaven has struck, that house is shaken Forever: damnation rises behind each child Like a wave cresting out of the black northeast, When the long darkness under sea roars up And bursts drumming death upon the wind-whipped sand.

I have seen this gathering sorrow from time long past Loom upon Oedipus’ children: generation from generation Takes the compulsive rage of the enemy god. So lately this last flower of Oedipus’ line Drank the sunlight! but now a passionate word And a handful of dust have closed up all its beauty.

What mortal arrogance Transcends the wrath of Zeus? Sleep cannot lull him, nor the effortless long months Of the timeless gods: but he is young forever, And his house is the shining day of high Olympus. All that is and shall be, And all the past, is his. No pride on earth is free of the curse of heaven.

The straying dreams of men May bring them ghosts of joy: But as they drowse, the waking embers burn them; Or they walk with fixed eyes, as blind men walk. But the ancient wisdom speaks for our own time:

*Fate works most for woe*

*With Folly’s fairest show.*

Man’s little pleasure is the spring of sorrow.

**What is the topic of the Ode? Write the main idea of each stanza on the lines provided.**

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***After carefully reading and annotating Ode Two, answer the questions below using complete sentences. Each thorough and thoughtful response may earn up to two points.***

**Theme:**

**The central idea or insight revealed by a work of literature. A theme is not the same as a work’s subject, which can usually be expressed in a word or two: old age, ambition, love. The theme is the message the writer wishes readers to discover about that subject. There is no single correct way to express a theme, and sometimes a work has several themes. Many works have ambiguous themes; that is, they have no clear single meaning but are open to a variety interpretations, even opposing ones.**

**Although a few stories, poems, and plays have themes that are stated directly, most themes are implied. The reader must piece together all the clues the writer provided to arrive at a discovery of the work’s meaning. Two of the most important clues to consider are the way the main character has changed and the way the conflict has been resolved.**

1. What is the **theme** of Ode II?

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1. Ode I expounds on the greatness of man; however, “[Man] has made himself secure - from all but one: / In the late wind of death he cannot stand.” How does Ode II expand on the subject of death? Furthermore, what ***imagery*** in the first verse of the ode underscores the idea that Antigone and Ismene are doomed?

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1. The first half of the ode refers to the house of Oedipus, the second half to the house of Creon. What does the ode suggest about how the two houses are linked? Reference line numbers in your response.

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1. Explain the last three lines of the ode. To whom do these lines apply?

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