

Villanelle #1  
by Mary Sauve

Every day the smiling skeleton wept.  
The art of being alone is bittersweet,  
For shame is a dark cave where secrets are kept.

alliteration + oxymoron

comparison

metaphor

Dripstone sentries wait like darts in the crypt  
Blaming and guiltig him, so indiscreet  
Every day the smiling skeleton wept

personification

personification + motif (entry war retreat)

simile

motif imagery (cave, crypt & dripstone)

Forgiveness for others, not for himself kept  
Let the flesh from his bones slowly retreat  
For shame is a dark cave where secrets are kept

consonance + personification

Yet still he smiled, stony, sculpted, except  
When no-one was looking, in heartened deceit  
Every day the smiling skeleton wept

passive voice

alliteration

imagery (what skeleton looks like)

His bones decayed, brittle, eterne they slept  
Knowing that hiding himself is a false conceit  
For shame is a dark cave where secrets are kept.

assonance + consonance

personification

Putting on his happy face, his jaw inept  
Inured to the gentle numbing drumbeat  
Every day the smiling skeleton wept,  
For shame is a dark cave where secrets are kept.

alliteration

personification

oxymoron  
irony

motif (bones brittle stony sculpt)

refrain

rhyme scheme

meter 10-11 syllables per line

Buried in the dirt of a false conceit

stone mask