As a Man

Harry A. Fryar

As a man who feels he stands alone,
No family, no friends, and no home.
He writes poems, which he turns into songs.
Praying one day he’ll find where he belongs.

He stands in his corner looking around,
And hears other prisoners talking about
Their families with so much joy in their eyes.
But family thoughts give him only pain inside.

He knows in his heart—no lie—
That his family would never know how he feels inside.
Their hearts so hardened against him that they couldn’t see
Him standing right in front of them with tears running free.

As a man who feels he stands alone, he asks,
“Lord! Please tell me what did they expect from me in the past?
When I was a child, I was passed down from family, to family,
To family, like an old family suitcase passed down, you see.

Everyone was trying to change me,
Shape me into the image they felt I should be.

1. Alliteration
   Repetition of words with the same beginning sounds.
   Example: Becky’s beagle barked and bayed, becoming bothersome for Billy.

2. Simile
   A direct comparison of two UNLIKE items using LIKE or AS.
   Example: As easy as pie.

3. End rhyme
   A word at the end of one line rhymes with a word at the end of another line.
   Example: We real cool. We left school.

4. Repetition
   Repeated use of sounds, words, or ideas for effect and emphasis.
   Example: I can’t read/I can’t write/I can’t spell.

Which poetic devices does Harry Fryar use in his poem? How do they add meaning?

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Write a poem using poetic devices.