

Figurative Language and Poetic Devices

Metaphor: an implicit comparison between two unlike things using the word "is"

Ex: The world **is** like a stage. / It **is** a tragedy as often

Simile: an explicit comparison between two unlike things using the words "like" or "as"

Ex: Life **is** like a stage. / It **is** as often

Personification: a figure of speech in which an object or animal is given human qualities

Ex: The wind **whispered** to the trees.

Hyperbole: an exaggeration

Ex: I **could** talk forever, to those who love me.

Irony: a contrast between what is said and what is meant

Ex: "It's **so** hot today," he said, shivering.

Symbol: something that stands for or represents something else

Ex: The white dove **symbolizes** peace.

Imagery: the use of descriptive language to create a picture in the reader's mind. The result of imagery is an image that is the sensory impression of what is described. It includes words like "sight," "sound," "smell," "taste," and "touch."

Metonymy: a figure of speech in which one thing is referred to by the name of another thing

Ex: The **White House** issued a statement.

Onomatopoeia: a figure of speech in which words are used to imitate sounds

Ex: The **whispering** wind.

Personification: the use of human qualities to describe an object or animal. This is often done to make an object or animal more relatable to the reader.

Hyperbole: an exaggerated statement or claim, often for emphasis or to create a strong image.

Simile: a figure of speech in which two things are compared using the words "like" or "as."

Metaphor: a figure of speech in which one thing is compared to another thing, often in a way that is not literal.