

LITERARY DEVICES

Literary Device	Definition	Example
ONomatopoeia	is a word that imitates the sound it represents.	crash pop tick-tock whistle
PERSONIFICATION	is when a writer gives human qualities to animals or objects.	My car coughed the gasoline in our gasp. The cat laughed. The newspaper headline glared at me.
ALLITERATION	is the repetition of the same consonant sound in words occurring near one another.	Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. Sally sells seashells by the seashore.
HYPERBOLE	is using an object or action that seems something more than its literal meaning.	That exhibition the night against those curses. The Name of Liberty, revolution, freedom.
PARADOX	is a truth which at first seems contradictory.	He was cowardly and brave at the same time. When you're with all the time, you lose.
HYPERBOLE	is an obvious exaggeration or overstatement.	It's so hot here I could see the water heater at Golden Gate right now!
ANALOGY	is an expression comparing one thing to another using the words "like" or "as".	He ran like a cat, lightly and quietly. Her hair moved around as quickly as an electric fan blade.
METAPHOR	is a comparison of two unlike things without using the words "like" or "as".	He was a star, waiting to lose the show. She was a mother hen, trying to take care of everyone around her.
ALLUSION	is a casual reference to a famous historical or literary figure or event.	If it doesn't stop raining, I'm going to build an ark. My team has to make sure it's going to call myself Old McDonald.
IMAGERY	is when a writer makes the five senses.	The silent, crowded form of evening banners. The fence was warm, like baby teeth growing on his face in (like a smile!) I got out too before my big day - I was a real My team gave me the green light - My team said yes
IDIOSM	is an expression with a meaning different from the literal meaning of the words.	
OXYMOXON	is the juxtaposition of two opposite words.	a peaceful war a generous highway dark sunshine
FLUORESCENCE	is a good word or phrase used in place of one that may be too direct, vulgar, or embarrassing.	pass away - die eventually challenged - about
CLICHÉ	is an expression that has lost its power or originality from overuse.	sitting a mile a minute quiet as a mouse rock solid
PUN	is a form of wordplay on words, often involving double meanings.	There was a division in the Cup. There were many casualties. A man with a case of soap took the crown over. He took a class picture.

*Keep this in your notebook as we learn about each literary device.