

Villa

### **List of Literary Devices**

#### **Alliteration**

Alliteration is the repetition of similar sounds, generally at the beginning of words and usually by means of consonants or consonant sound clusters in a group of words. ("The willfull waterbeds help me thrall, / the laving laurel turned my tide.")

#### **Allusion**

In literature, this is a reference to another work. (In the Police song "Wrapped Around Your Finger", Sting writes, "trapped between the Scylla and Charybdis" in reference to Homer's *Odyssey*.)

#### **Anecdote**

A very short story that is told to make a point.

#### **Assonance**

Is the repetition of vowel sounds in non-rhyming words.

(*Hear the mellow wedding bells*. — Edgar Allan Poe, "The Bells" or *And murmuring of innumerable bees* - Alfred Lord Tennyson, *The Princess* VII.203)

#### **Consonance**

is the repetition, at close intervals, of the final consonants of accented syllables or important words especially at the ends of words (as in *blank and think or strong and string* or *Lady lounges lazily* and *Dark deep dread*.)

#### **Flashback**

A scene in a short story, a novel, a narrative poem, or a play that interrupts the action to show an event that happened earlier.

#### **Foreshadowing**

The use of hints or clues in a narrative to suggest what action is to come. Writers use foreshadowing to create interest and build suspense.

#### **Hyperbole**

Hyperbole is an exaggeration of fact used either for serious or comic effect. ("Her eyes opened wide as saucers.")

#### **Imagery**

Imagery refers to the way words create or suggest pictures in the reader's mind – what we see, hear, smell, feel, or taste. ("The pungent fragrance of orange blossoms sweetly drifted through the air." / "The stunning blue waters sparkled with brilliant clarity.")

#### **Irony**

A contrast or an incongruity between what is stated and what is meant or between what is expected to happen and what actually happens. The three kinds of irony are *verbal irony*, in which a writer or speakers says one thing and means something entirely different, *dramatic irony*, in which a reader or an audience knows something that a character in the story or play does not know, and *irony of situation*, in which the writer shows a discrepancy between the expected result of some action or situation and its actual result. ("It was ironic when the marriage counselor himself got a divorce.")

#### **Metaphor**

A metaphor is a comparison that is only suggested or implied, with no clear indication of a relation between the two items. ("Her face is a wrinkled leaf.")

#### **Motif**

A reoccurring feature, such as a name, an image, or a phrase, in a work of literature. A motif generally contributes in some way to the theme of a short story, novel, poem, or play.

#### **Onomatopoeia**

Onomatopoeia is the use of a word in which the sound imitates or suggests its meaning. (Hiss, clang, snap buzz.)

#### **Oxymoron**

A phrase where two or more words are diametrically opposed. (Sweet sorrow, wise fool, honest thief, short eternity)

#### **Paradox**

A statement that reveals a kind of truth, although it seems at first to be self-contradictory and untrue.

#### **Personification**

A figure of speech in which something nonhuman is given human qualities. ("Grey mist on the sea's face")

#### **Satire**

A kind of writing that holds up to ridicule or contempt the weaknesses and wrongdoings of individuals, groups, institutions, or humanity in general. The aim of satirists is to set a moral standard for society, and they attempt to persuade the reader to set their point of view through the force of laughter.

#### **Simile**

A figure of speech comparing two essentially unlike things through the use of words "like" or "as". (My love is like a rose)

#### **Symbol**

Any object, person, place, or action that has a meaning in itself and that also stands for something larger than itself, such as a quality, an attitude, a belief, or a value. Such as a rose if often a symbol of love.