**Literary Devices (Figurative Language)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Device** | **Definition** | **Examples** |
| Analogy | \* A comparison of two things, based on their being alike in some way. An idea or thing is compared to another thing that is quite different from it. It aims to explain that idea or thing by comparing it to something that is familiar.  \* Often written as a simile or metaphor. | 1. Just as a caterpillar must come out of its cocoon, so must we come out of our comfort zone.  2. I feel like a fish out of water.  3. A sword is to a warrior as a pen is to a writer. |
| Simile | \* A figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid. It uses either **like**, **as**, or **than** for the comparison. | 1. Smells **like** a rose.  2. Brave **as** a lion.  3. Faster **than** a speeding bullet. |
| Metaphor | \* A figure of speech involving a [comparison](http://literarydevices.net/comparison/) between two things that are unrelated but share some common characteristics. In other words, a similarity between two contradictory or different objects is made based on a single or some common characteristics. It compares two things, **without** using like, as, or than. | 1. My brother was **boiling mad**. (This implies he was extremely angry.)  2. The assignment was **a breeze**. (This implies that the assignment was not difficult.)  3. Her [voice](http://literarydevices.net/voice/) is **music to his ears**. (This implies that her voice makes him feel happy) |
| Alliteration | 1. \* The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words. It occurs when a series of words in a row (or close to a row) have the same first consonant sound. | 1. **L**aura's **l**izard **l**ikes **l**eaping **l**eopards.  2. **C**arrie's **c**at **c**lawed **c**arelessly at her **c**ouch, **c**reating **c**razy **c**haos.  3. **S**arah's **s**even **s**isters **s**lept **s**oundly on **s**oft **s**and. |
| Allusion | \* A figure of speech whereby the author makes a **brief**, indirect reference to subject matter such as a person, place, event, literary work, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary, or political significance by way of a passing reference. It is up to the reader to make a connection to the subject being mentioned. | 1. Don't act like Romeo in front of her. (From Romeo and Juliet)  2. I was surprised his nose didn't start growing like Pinocchio's. (From Pinocchio)  3. Chocolate is her Achilles heel. (Achilles is a character in Greek mythology who was invincible – except his heel.) |
| Hyperbole | \* Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally. It is an extreme exaggeration made to make a point. They can be found in literature and oral communication. | 1. I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.  2. I've told you a million times.  3. My mum is going to kill me. |
| Idiom | \* An expression whose meaning is not predictable from the usual meaning based on the individual words. The word or phrase is not to be taken literally. | 1. Sick as a dog. (You are very ill.)  2. Rub someone the wrong way. (You bother them.)  3. Out of the blue. (Something unexpected happened.) |
| Onomatopoeia | \* Is a word that imitates, resembles, or mimics the sound of the object or action to which it describes/refers. When you pronounce a word, it will mimic its sound. | 1. Caw  2. Buzz  3. Coo |
| Personification | \* This is when you give human qualities to an object or animal. It is a literary tool that adds interest or understanding to a poem or story. | 1. Lightning **danced** across the sky.  2. The wind **howled** in the night.  3. The door **protested** as it slowly opened. |
| Pun | \* A play on words in which a humourous effect is produced by using a word that suggests two or more meanings or by using similar sounding words having different meanings. It is a humourous way of using a word or phrase so that more than one meaning is suggested. | 1. Never give your uncle an anteater.  2. I woke up this morning and forgot which side the sun rises on. Then it dawned on me.  3. If you need help building an ark, I Noah guy. |