

Literary Devices

Device	Explanation	Examples	Device	Explanation	Examples
Simile	a strong comparison using a connecting word such as <i>like</i> or <i>as</i>	a sound like the pitter-patter of raindrops; a girl as pretty as a picture	Evaluative language	Positive or negative language that judges the worth of something. It includes language to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express feelings and opinions (language of Affect) Make judgements about aspects of people such as their behaviour (language of judgement) Assess the quality of objects such as literary works (language of Appreciation) 	relieved, bored, pleased, sad, nervous, scared, angry, excited weird, mean, dishonest, courageous, brave, smart, kind
Metaphor	Identification of one thing as, or in terms of, a very different thing without the use of <i>like</i> or <i>as</i>	He felt as though his home had become a prison; she was the apple of her mother's eye	Contrast	A device where two objects or ideas are put in opposition to one another to show or emphasise the difference/s between them. This could be between opposing characters, settings, events or ideas.	
Alliteration	Repetition of initial sounds of stressed syllables near enough to each other to make it noticeable	Sounds of silence; fast and furious; wild winds whipped her hair	Juxtaposition	The author places a person, concept, place, idea or theme parallel to another. The purpose of juxtaposing two directly or indirectly related entities close together in literature is to highlight the contrast between the two and compare them. This literary device is usually used for etching out a character in detail, creating suspense or lending a rhetorical effect	The room was filled with a deafening silence; That girl was pretty dull
Assonance	Repetition of vowel sounds in syllables near enough to each other to make it noticeable	Time can't hide the lies; feel the need for sleep	Foreshadowing	Indicative words or phrases and hints that set the stage for a story to unfold and give the reader a hint of something that is going to happen without revealing the story or spoiling the suspense.	He had no idea of the disastrous chain of events to follow.
Personification	Attribution of human qualities to non-human objects or to abstractions	The wind whispers; the stream murmurs; justice cries out	Colloquial language	Casual words that are regional	Snag, hot dog, dagwood dog
Imagery	Vivid descriptive language that appeals to any of the senses	Cold stare; sweet honey; dizzying heights	Idiom	A figurative language expression made by a combination of words, whose meaning is different from the literal meaning of the individual words	I am over the moon; Skating on thin ice; A fish out of water
End rhyme	Repetition of terminal sounds of words at the ends of two or more lines	You've come a long <u>way</u> just to see a new <u>day</u>	Figurative language	A group of words with an accepted meaning that is nothing like the individual words. They are used in a non-literal way for particular effect	Similes, metaphors, personification, idioms, personification, hyperbole, onomatopoeia
Symbolism	An object, condition or action that represents something else within a certain context	Shabby clothes may represent poverty; a dove may represent hope; the colour green may represent new life	Evocative vocabulary	Words or phrases that are designed to evoke an emotional response in the reader	
Onomatopoeia	Words that sound like the items or actions they name or refer to	Whisper; crackle; flutter	Modality	Words that communicate the level of certainty	Possible, necessary, required, can, must, may, should, could
Paradox	A statement or concept that contains conflicting ideas	Cruel to be kind; he must go to war to make peace; this is the beginning of the end	Persuasive language devices	Language choices that engage and influence an audience	Rhetorical question, emphasis, repetition
Embedded clause	Provides very specific detail about the noun being described. It begins with a relative pronoun such as <i>who</i> , <i>whose</i> , <i>which</i> , or <i>that</i> . Sometimes the relative pronoun is left out of the sentence and the sentence will still make sense	Ned, whose own father was a convicted criminal, was now facing trial himself.	Rhetorical question	A question that is asked to make the audience think; it does not require an answer	Shouldn't society question the rules that apply to them?
Irony	Irony is a literary device that is all about opposites: opposite meanings, opposite results and opposite expectations. In literature, authors often use an ironic twist or comment to make a point or to entertain		Hyperbole	A hyperbole is a type of figurative language defined as a dramatic exaggeration. Many writers use hyperboles to emphasise a particular detail of a character, setting, or situation.	Examples of hyperbole include "everyone knows..." and "He ran as fast as the speed of light."
Style of speech	Aspects of a character's speech that reveal their personal and social identities, ie. Who they are and how they fit into their society	"Hey mate, kick us the footy will ya."	Repetition	Words or ideas deliberately repeated to draw the reader's attention	

