

# Literary Devices & more

English 1

# Personification

- The projection of characteristics that normally belong only to humans onto inanimate objects, animals, deities, or forces of nature
- These characteristics can include verbs of actions that only humans do or adjectives that describe a human condition.

# Metaphor

- A rhetorical figure of speech that compares two subjects without the use of “like” or “as.”
- Metaphor is often confused with simile, which compares two subjects by connecting them with “like” or “as” (for example: “She’s fit as a fiddle”). While a simile states that one thing is like another, a metaphor asserts that

# Imagery

- Descriptive language that can function as a way for the reader to better imagine the world of the piece of literature and also add symbolism to the work
- Imagery draws on the five senses, namely the details of taste, touch, sight, smell, and sound

# Alliteration

- The repetition of the same consonant sounds at the beginning of words that are in close proximity to each other.

# Irony

- Someone says or writes something that is in opposition to the person's true meaning.
- There must be some indication, however, that the speaker does not exactly mean what she or he says.
- Verbal irony most often takes the form either of overstatement or understatement, and can also include **hyperbole**, rhetorical question, and sarcasm.

# Symbolism

- Symbolism means to imbue objects with a certain meaning that is different from their original meaning or function.
- Authors use symbolism to tie certain things that may initially seem unimportant to more universal themes. The symbols then represent these grander ideas or qualities.

# Simile

- A simile is a figure of speech that makes a comparison, showing similarities between two different things. Unlike a metaphor, a simile draws resemblance with the help of the words “like” or “as”.

# Context

- The part of a text or statement that surrounds a particular word or passage and determines its meaning.

# Tone

- In a piece of literature, tone decides how they readers read a literary piece and how they should feel while they are reading it.
- EX:
- “All morons hate it when you call them a moron” – Catcher in the Rye by Holden Caulfield
- (Tone = sarcasm)

# Theme

- A main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work that may be stated directly or indirectly.
- Don't confuse, THEME and SUBJECT:
  - Subject is a topic which acts as a foundation for a literary work **while a theme is an opinion expressed on the subject.**

## Examples of theme

### **Love and friendship**

- They generate emotional twists and turns in a narrative and can lead to a variety of endings: happy, sad or bittersweet.

*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

**Crime and mystery** are utilized in detective novels. Such narratives also include sub-themes such as “crimes cannot be hidden”, “evil is always punished” etc.

*Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown

# Connotation

- Refers to a meaning that is implied by a word apart from the thing which it describes explicitly. Words carry cultural and emotional associations or meanings in addition to their literal meanings or denotations.
- Can be Positive or Negative
- Ex: Childish = negative    *BUT*    Youthful = positive  
    ^^ annoying/immature      ^^Energetic/fun

# Rhetoric

- Art of persuasion through language; Often used in arguments.
- Three types of rhetoric:
  - 1) Logos – Use of logic/facts to prove a point
  - 2) Ethos – Use of credible information to prove the speaker is worth listening to.
  - 3) Pathos – Emotional pull with words to capture the audience.