

Literary Devices

Figurative Language and Beyond

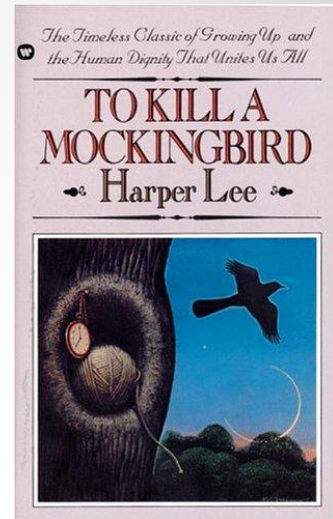
Essential Question

What are the literary devices I need to understand and to analyze poetry and drama?



Aphorism

- a concise statement of a general truth or principle; like a truism
- Example—
 - A penny saved is a penny earned.
 - “The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them.” -Mark Twain
 - “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view – until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.”
from *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee





Epigraph



- a quotation at the beginning of a literary work to introduce its theme
- Example—
 - *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,
thou shalt not eat of it:
for in the day that thou eatest thereof
thou shalt surely die.*
(Genesis 2:17)
--from *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnBr-7QzBBg>

Metaphor

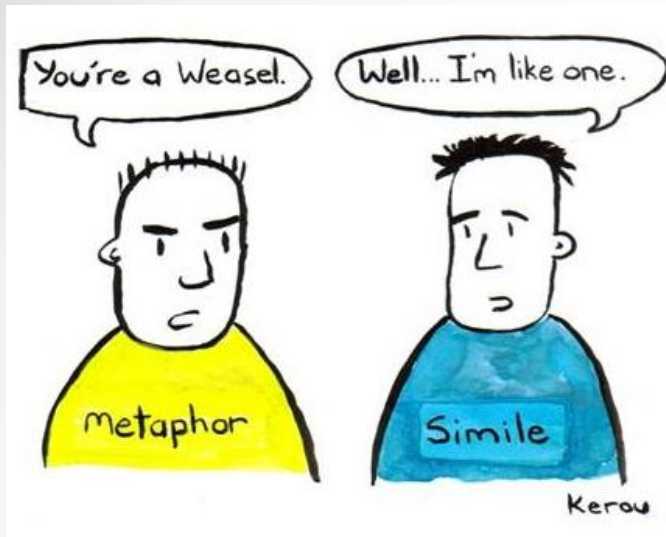


- a subtle comparison in which an author describes a person or thing using words that are not meant to be taken literally
- Example—
 - time is a dressmaker specializing in alterations
 - All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players:
They have their exits and their entrances
from *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare

Extended Metaphor

- a metaphor introduced and then further developed throughout all or part of a literary work, especially a poem—comparison can be made to something else not mentioned in the poem
 - Example—
 - *Nothing Gold Can Stay* by Robert Frost
- Comparison= life to a sunrise





Simile

- a comparison of two things that are essentially different, using the words *like* or *as*
- Example
 - *O my love is like a red, red rose*
from Robert Burn's "A Red, Red Rose"

Imagery

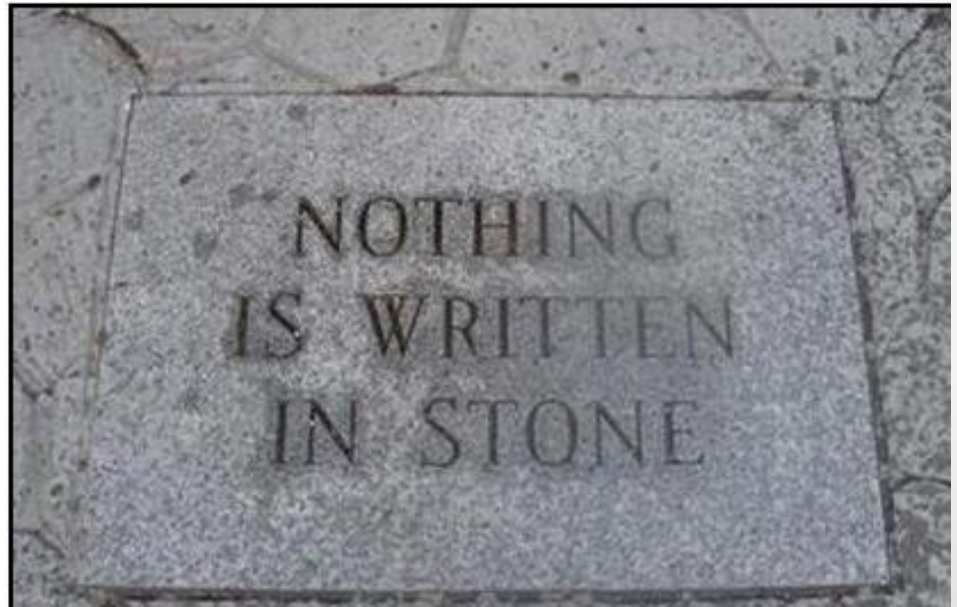
- the use of language to create mental images and sensory impressions for emotional effect and intensity
- Example—
 - He could hear his world crashing down when he heard the news about her.
 - A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the *Milky Way*



from *Daffodils* by William Wordsworth

Irony

- a literary technique used to create meaning that seems to contradict the literal meaning or events
 - Verbal
 - Situational
 - Dramatic



Verbal Irony



- use of words in which the intended meaning is contrary to the literal meaning
- Requires the right understanding of *meaning*, the right *audience*, and most importantly, the right *tone of voice*.
- Example –
 - “Miss, are we gonna do anything today?” And the teacher responds...
 - In SHREK , when Fiona Says “Where are you going?” and Shrek replies “I’ve got to save my ass.” (Speaking of Donkey)



Situational Irony

- implying through plot or character that a situation is quite different from the way it is presented.
- Example—
 - 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz', Scarecrow always had a brain; Tin Man always had a heart; Dorothy could have always gone home; the Cowardly Lion wasn't a coward after all.

Dramatic Irony

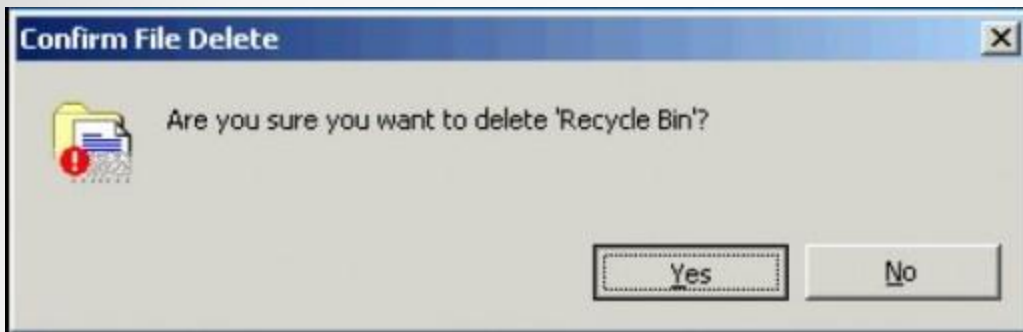


- dramatic device in which a character says or does something that he or she does not fully grasp but which is understood by the audience
- Example—
 - Lois Lane is constantly trying to get an interview with Superman, but she actually sees him every day and doesn't know it (Clark Kent).

Sarcasm

- a bitter form of irony, can be intended to tease or hurt; often insinuated by the tone; late Gr. *sarkasmós*, f. *sarkázein* tear flesh, gnash the teeth, speak bitterly, f. *sárx*, *sark*- flesh.
- Example—
 - “I’m proud of you, Mom. You’re like Christopher Columbus. You discovered something millions of people knew about before you.” –Lisa Simpson





Paradox

- a seemingly contradictory statement that on closer analysis reveals a deeper truth
- Example—
 - “I’m nobody.” --anonymous
 - “I can resist anything but temptation.” --Oscar Wilde
 - “Nobody goes to that restaurant; it’s too crowded.”

Personification

- figurative language in which nonhuman things or abstractions are represented as having human qualities
- **Example—**
 - Necessity is the mother of all invention.



Hyperbole

- an intentional and extreme exaggeration for emphasis or effect
- **Example—**
 - This book weighs a ton.



Refrain

- a phrase or verse recurring at intervals in a song or poem, especially at the end of each stanza; chorus.
- **Example—**
 - “All you need is love
Love is all you need”
--The Beatles
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-pFAFsTFTI>