

Poetry & Literary Devices (Tools)

Tools	Definition	Example
DEVICES		
	A figure of speech in which consonants, especially at the beginning of words, or stressed syllables, are repeated.	(e.g. The silly, slippery, sad snake, slithered along the slick snow.)
	A figure of speech in which vowels, especially at the beginning of words, or stressed syllables, are repeated.	
<i>see also Idiom</i>	A word or expression used in everyday conversation but not in formal language.	(e.g., <i>Gimme a break!</i>)
	secondary/implied meanings suggested by a word. Could be positive, negative, or neutral	(i.e. <i>giggle, laugh and cackle – synonyms with different connotations</i>)
	Dictionary definition of a word	
	a form of speech characteristic of a geographic region, social class, or a particular people	
	a plot device which shifts the story from the present to the past; interrupting a scene to narrate an earlier event; usually to illustrate an important point or to reveal a change in character	
	A literary device in which an author provides an indication of future events in the plot. It can be a comment or incident that hints at an event to come, often in a negative way.	
	A word that has the same spelling and/or a similarity of sound as another word but a different meaning.	(e.g., <i>ear</i> , meaning <i>the organ of hearing</i> , and <i>ear</i> [of corn], meaning <i>the seed-bearing head of a cereal plant</i>).

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	A literary device in which exaggeration is used deliberately for effect or emphasis.	(e.g., <i>a flood of tears, piles of money</i>)
	A group of words that, through usage, has taken on a special meaning different from the literal meaning	(e.g., <i>Keep your shirt on!</i> or <i>It's raining cats and dogs.</i>)
	Descriptions and figures of speech used by writers to create vivid mental pictures in the mind of the reader. <i>AKA: a literary device</i>	(e.g., metaphors, similes)
irony	<p>A meaning of words in context that differs from, and is often the opposite of, their literal meaning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ _____ IRONY: when a contrast is evident between what a character says and what a character actually means ○ _____ I RONY: when the author shares with the reader information not known by a character. As a result, the reader becomes aware that a character's actions may be inappropriate for the actual circumstances ○ _____ IRONY: when a set of circumstances turns out differently from what is expected or considered appropriate (twist in the story) 	A technique of indicating, as through character or plot development, an intention or attitude opposite to that which is actually or ostensibly stated
	A figurative comparison in which one thing is described in terms of another and the comparison is implicit. A comparison <u>without</u> using "like" or "as".	The road was a ribbon of moonlight.
	The use of a word having a sound that suggests its meaning.	(e.g., <i>splash, murmur, buzz, twitter</i>)
	A combination of words with contradictory meanings, used deliberately for effect.	(e.g., <i>delicious torment, living death</i>)
	Giving human attributes/characteristics to inanimate objects.	Ex: "The Flames licked at the wood before embracing it with destructive warmth".

Tools	Definition	Example
<i>see also Homonym</i>	A pun is a play on words that are alike or nearly alike in sound, but different in meaning.	(Nowadays we tend to groan when we hear one, but Elizabethan audiences loved puns, and Shakespeare did not want to disappoint them!)
	A direct comparison using “like” or “as”.	
	language used by a specific group of people to set themselves apart from others.	“YOLO” or “selfie”
	<p>relative force with which a sound or syllable is spoken.</p> <p>Stressed syllables have more emphasis placed on them than unstressed syllables. In oral language, the words you choose to stress affects how a sentence is understood</p>	(i.e. italicizing or underlining words for emphasis)
	<p>subtext comes into play when characters are saying something abstract or are lying/being sarcastic.</p> <p>What they are saying doesn't match with what they mean.</p>	
_____	<p>a symbol usually has a number of possible meanings. Can be any image, object, character, or action that represents an idea beyond its literal meaning.</p> <p>Using an object, animate or inanimate, to represent or “stand for” something else.</p>	(e.g.: In Lord of the Rings, the white clothes of the white wizard (Gandalf) represent goodness (he is the good wizard).
ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE		
	<p>A narrative in which the characters and the setting stand for abstract qualities and ideas.</p> <p>Allegory is related to symbolism, but allegory usually makes a one-to-one equation between things; a symbol, on the other hand, usually has a number of possible meanings.</p> <p>An entire story can be an allegory or only a small anecdote.</p>	

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aside	A brief remark made by a character and intended to be heard by the audience but not by other characters.	
	The pervasive mood or tone in the story. It is created by the author's treatment of landscape and setting.	(e.g. gloom foreboding, joyful etc.)
characterization	<p>Suggestions or hints as to what people are like by the author. Characters are revealed by:</p> <p>Dialogue - what one person says to another and how he/she says it</p> <p>- what one person says about another. What the author suggests about a character. How the person is described.</p> <p>_____ Method of Characterization: author "says" who/what the character is like</p> <p>_____ Method of Characterization: author "shows" who/what the character is like</p> <p>Character _____: divided up into physical, intellectual, social, moral and emotional traits</p>	
characters	<p>people or entities one encounters</p> <p>_____ : the character whom the story revolves around; the main character</p> <p>_____ : person or force who/which is in conflict with the protagonist</p> <p>_____ CHARACTERS: have only one or two apparent qualities that are focused on</p> <p>_____ CHARACTERS: well-developed, complex characters</p> <p>_____ CHARACTERS: remain the same throughout the whole story</p> <p>_____ CHARACTERS: undergo a permanent change in some aspect of their personality or attitude</p>	

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comic relief	A humorous line or scene is introduced to relieve some of the emotional intensity of a previous scene.	
Conflict	<p>central source of tension and drama that make a story interesting</p> <p>Types of conflict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PERSON vs. _____: two characters fighting, family conflicts, romantic issues, difficulties with a bully - PERSON vs. _____: conflict between a character and a larger group (ie: a business or institution) - PERSON vs. _____: conflict between an individual and the natural world (ie: fighting a hurricane, tornado, or surviving on an island) - PERSON vs. _____: involves a character's psychological conflicts with him/herself (ie: overcoming alcoholism, grieving over the loss of a loved one) 	a story may have several conflicts
	The predominant atmosphere of a work as well as the feeling evoked by a piece of literature in the reader.	
	the implied or stated lesson of a story	
	<p>storyline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ _____ / INTRODUCTION: introduces the main characters, describes the situation, establishes the setting and gives necessary background information ○ _____: sets the conflict in motion. Also called a trigger. ○ _____: series of events which increase the conflict until the climax ○ _____: the turning point; the most dramatic part of the story. ○ FALLING ACTION: short series of events through which the conflict is resolved; not all loose ends are always tied up 	<p>sequence of events or incidents of which a story is composed</p> <p>includes what a character says/thinks as well as what he/she does</p> <p>has a beginning, middle and end</p> <p>– conventional PLOT LINE:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ _____ / CONCLUSION: the end of the story 	
<p>Point of view</p> <p>POV</p>	<p>The position of the narrator in relation to the story;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ _____ – The story is told from the perspective of one of the characters in the story. Uses “I”, “me”, and “us”. ➤ Third Person - _____ - The story is told by a narrator who is <u>outside</u> the story. Uses “he”, “she”, “it”, and “they”. Narrator only knows the thoughts and actions of one character. ➤ Third Person - _____ –The narrator knows the thoughts and actions of all characters. ➤ Objective – the writer tells what happens without stating more than can be inferred from the story’s action and dialogue. They never disclose anything about what the characters think or feel; they remain a detached observer. 	
	<p>the use of irony to ridicule an idea, person, or thing, often to provoke change; usually mocks human vices or foibles</p>	
	<p>The setting is the time, place and atmosphere in which the story occurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ environment where the story takes place (TIME, PLACE and ATMOSPHERE/MOOD) ○ TIME: Time of day, Day of the week, Season, Year ○ PLACE: Geographical location and room/area ○ ATMOSPHERE/MOOD: feeling created by diction used by the author; often mimicked by the story’s setting (i.e. foreboding, happy, tense, etc.) ○ helps to shape the action ○ details help reader to make mental images and provide clarity ○ descriptions are never ornamental; they are a means of telling us something 	
	<p>the thoughts the reader imagines the character has as he/she speaks the words in a text.</p> <p>Oftentimes, subtext comes into play when characters are saying something abstract or are lying/being sarcastic. What they are saying doesn’t match with what they mean.</p>	

Tools	Definition	Example
	<p>a state or condition of mental uncertainty or excitement, as in awaiting a decision or outcome, usually accompanied by a degree of apprehension or anxiety</p>	
	<p>a central idea of a story that has real-life universal application; usually implied rather than directly stated;</p> <p>sometimes in the form of a short phrase or “a” vs. “b” (ie: appearance vs. reality, sight vs. blindness);</p> <p>clues are usually found in the title, symbols, observations made by characters, a lesson suggested by the resolution of a conflict, etc.;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NOT a theme: love, racism (these are TOPICS) ○ Weak themes: unrequited love, racism is bad ○ Stronger themes: love vs. lust, racism as a destructive force 	
	<p>The statement in an essay that communicates the writer’s main point and purpose. The thesis statement appears at the beginning of an essay.</p> <p>It is arguable and written in a very clear, strong manner</p>	
Tragedy	<p>A type of drama of human conflict which ends in suffering and defeat. Often the main character has a tragic flaw (weakness of character, wrong judgement) which leads to his or her destruction. Sometimes the conflict is with forces beyond the control of the character (fate, evil in the world, destiny, etc.)</p>	

POETIC DEVICES

monologue	A type of poem which is spoken to a listener. The speaker addresses a specific topic while the listener unwittingly reveals details about him/herself.	
Prose	Ordinary writing as distinguished from verse (poetry); sometimes delivered matter-of-factly or with dull expression	
quatrain	A stanza or poem consisting of four lines. Lines 2 and 4 must rhyme while having a similar number of syllables.	Two households, both alike in <u>dignity</u> , In fair Verona, where we lay out scene , From ancient grudge break to new <u>mutiny</u> , Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean .
rhyme scheme & iambic pentameter	A rhyming poem has the repetition of the same or similar sounds of two or more words, often at the end of the line. One short syllable followed by one long one five sets in a row. Example: la-LAH la-LAH la-LAH la-LAH la-LAH	
Rhyming couplet	In Shakespearean plays, the last two lines of a scene rhyme, thus called a rhyming couplet (couple= two).	We went on towards the end, Where the road was thus a bend.
Soliloquy	A private speech made by a character in a play. It can only be heard by the audience. Soliloquies reveal what the character is like, foreshadow the plot, create atmosphere, and give clues about the realities behind the appearance of events.	<i>It is similar to "thoughts" that characters have in movies or on TV.</i>
sonnet	A lyric poem that consists of 14 lines which usually have one or more conventional rhyme schemes.	