

IMAGERY



➤ **Definition:** the literary term used for language and description that appeals to our five senses. When a writer attempts to describe something so that it appeals to our sense of smell, sight, taste, touch, or hearing, he/she has used imagery.

➤ **Example:** The night was black as ever, but bright stars lit up the sky in beautiful and varied constellations which were sprinkled across the astronomical landscape.

SIMILE & METAPHOR

- Both the simile and the metaphor fall under the category of *figurative language*, which is when words or expressions have meaning that is different than the literal interpretation.
- There is one big difference between a simile and a metaphor, and that is the words “like” and “as.” Similes make comparisons using the words like or as. Metaphors draw comparisons as well, but they do not use the words like or as.
- **Example:** (Simile) Her mind was like a puzzle. (Metaphor) Her mind was a puzzle.

THREE TYPES OF IRONY

1. **Situational Irony**- The opposite of what you expect happens.
 - a. Example- In a movie, a character who is a proclaimed vegan orders a hamburger.
2. **Dramatic Irony**- The audience is aware of something the characters are not.
 - a. Example-Throughout the movie *The Lion King*, Simba sulks around thinking he caused his father's death, but the audience knows that it was his evil Uncle Scar.
3. **Verbal Irony**- When someone says or writes something but means another. (Sarcastic language is verbal irony)
 - a. Example-

Donkey: Can I stay with you? Please?
Shrek: Of course.
Donkey: Really?
Shrek: NO.



HYPERBOLE

Definition: Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.

Example: Saying “I’m starving!” when you’re just really ready to eat.

Example: Saying “This English homework is killing me!” when you’re actually just whining.



ALLUSION

Definition: a brief and indirect reference to a person, place, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance.

Example: “Empire State of Mind” by Jay Z: “Yeah, I’m up at *Brooklyn*, now I’m down in *Tribeca*

Right next to *DeNiro*, but I’ll be hood forever

I’m the new *Sinatra* and since I made it here

I can make it anywhere, yeah, they love me everywhere.”

Example: Your backyard is the *Garden of Eden*.

DIRECT VS. INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION

Direct Characterization— When the author tells you directly about a character. For example, look at this clip from Mean Girls. →

Indirect Characterization— When the author reveals traits of a character through the character's personality, appearance, thoughts, actions, and speech. For example, check out this clip of Captain Jack Sparrow.

Both clips tell you many things about the character(s), so what's the difference? ↪

ROUND-DYNAMIC VS. FLAT-STATIC CHARACTERS

Round/Dynamic Characters: Realistic, relatable characters who undergo change, development, and growth as the story progresses. For example, Frodo in The Lord of the Rings is a round character because he undergoes significant development throughout the trilogy.

Flat/Static Characters: Relatively uncomplicated characters who do very little developing or changing throughout a story. For example, Gollum in The Lord of the Rings stays true to his evil, selfish nature until his death in the final book.

POINTS OF VIEW

1st Person POV- When the narrator speaks of himself or herself using “I.” Think GoPro camera- we only get the cameraman’s perspective. Check out the trailer for A Dog’s Purpose.

3rd Person Limited POV- When the narrator gives insight into the thoughts and feelings of one particular character.

3rd Person Omniscient POV- When the narrator gives insight into the thought and feelings of more than one character. This type of narration is sometimes described as “god-like” because the narrator can see into the minds of all characters.

PARADOX

Definition: a statement, idea, or situation that appears to be self-contradictory but actually holds some truth.

Example: “This is the beginning of the end.” –Seems contradictory but in reality has some truth.

Example: “Life is a preparation for the future; and the best preparation for the future is to live as if there were none.” –Albert Einstein



OXYMORON

NOT to be confused with paradox. Yes—they are similar, but a paradox is a situation or idea that contradicts and is yet still true, while an oxymoron is the combination of two contradictory words to form a new word.

Examples: Jumbo Shrimp, the Living dead (aka zombies), deafening silence, bittersweet, pretty ugly, etc.

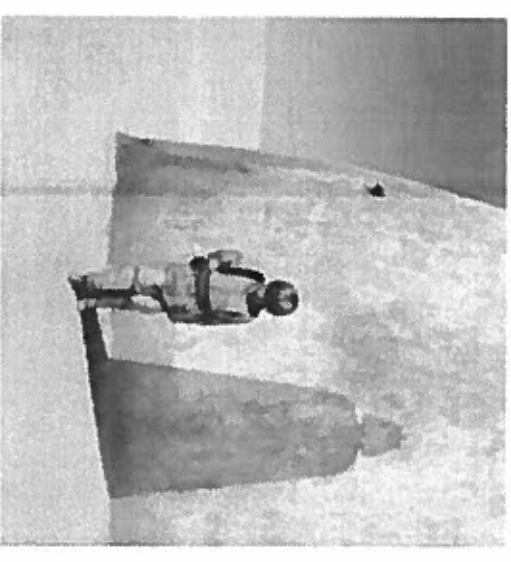
ICYHOT

FORESHADOWING

Definition: when the author gives a warning or indication of a future event.

Example: In the Disney Movie *Bambi*, Bambi's mother's death is foreshadowed when she warns him of the dangers of hunters in the forest.

Pause: Can you think of other examples from movies or books you've read that display foreshadowing?



SYMBOLISM

Definition: When an object, person, place, or event has deeper meaning than its literal one and usually represents an abstract idea.

Example: The color black often is symbolic for death or evil. The dove is a symbol of peace.

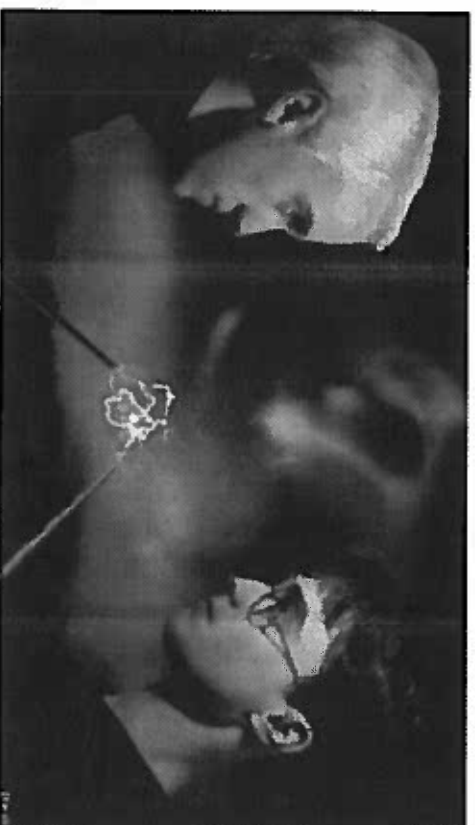


CHARACTER FOILS

Definition: Characters who contrast each other; they have opposite sets of traits in order to highlight certain qualities.

Examples: Harry vs. Draco

Simba vs. Scar



tone vs. mood

Hint:
Tone=Author
Mood=Reader

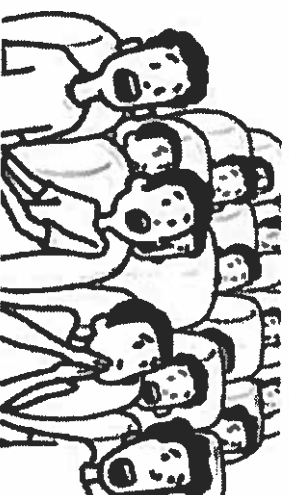
Tone: The author's attitude toward the subject being written about. For example, Harper Lee, the author of the American classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*, is clearly opposed to racism.

Mood: How we are made to feel as the audience; the emotional atmosphere of a work. If the setting is described as dark and eerily quiet, we immediately sense the ominous mood.

Tone=



Mood=



THEME TOPIC VS. THEME STATEMENT

Hint:

Topic: general and broad ideas

Statement: an actual

statement/sentence about
those ideas

Theme Topic: General ideas explored in a work. For example,
good vs. evil is a common theme topic.

Theme statement: What a work says about the theme topic(s).

For example, good always triumphs over evil could be the
theme statement for a book that explores the theme topic
good vs. evil.

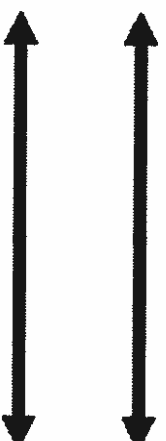
SUSPENSE

Definition: the sense of anticipation or worry that the author makes the reader feel.

Pause & Practice: Write down the most suspenseful movie or book scene you've ever experienced. Share with your table.



PARALLEL CONSTRUCTION



Definition: the repetition of the same pattern of words or phrases within a sentence or passage to show that two or more ideas have the same level of importance.

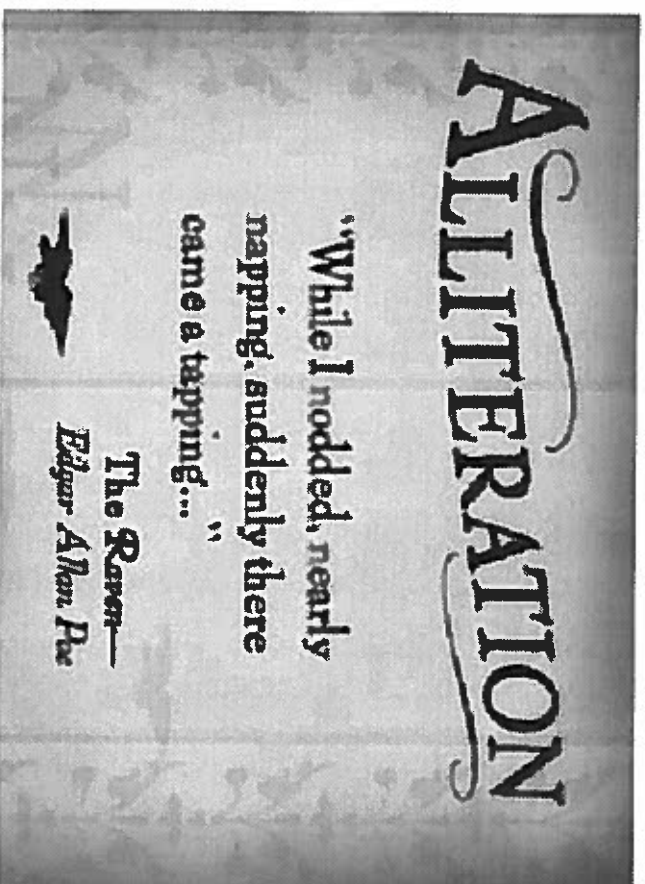
Example from E.B. White's *Goodbye to Forty-Eighth Street*→

“The wheels wheeled, the chairs spun, the cotton candy tinted the faces of children, the bright leaves tinted the woods and hills. A cluster of amplifiers spread the theme of love over everything and everybody; the mild breeze spread the dust over everything and everybody. Next morning, in the Lafayette Hotel in Portland, I went down to breakfast and found May Craig looking solemn at one of the tables and Mr. Murray, the auctioneer, looking cheerful at another.”

ALLITERATION

Definition: the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

Example:



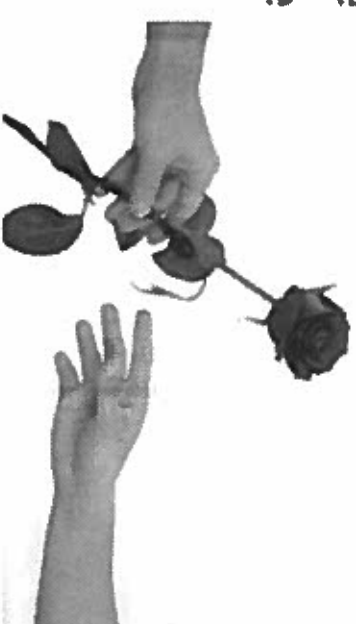
CONNOTATION VS. DENOTATION

Denotation: The precise, literal definition of a word.

Connotation: the ideas and feelings a word invokes; the implications of a word.

Example: The denotative meaning of the word *rose* is: a prickly bush or shrub that typically bears red, pink, yellow, or white fragrant flowers, native to north temperate regions.

However, the connotation of the word *rose* invokes feelings of love and romance.



PROTAGONIST VS. ANTAGONIST

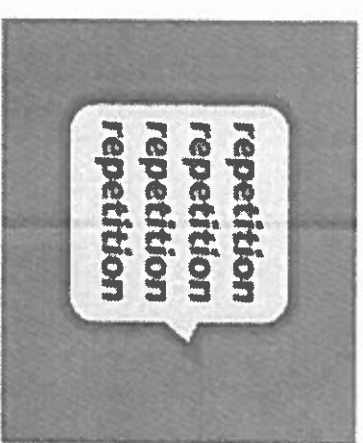
Protagonist: the leading or focal character of a work.

Doesn't always have to be the "good guy." For example, Gru in the *Despicable Me* movies is technically a villain and yet he is still the protagonist.

Antagonist: anything that stands in opposition to the protagonist or main character. The antagonist isn't always clear. For example, in *Finding Nemo*, Marlin tries to find his son, but there isn't a single character who is keeping Nemo away from him.

REPETITION

Definition: When an author intentionally repeats words or phrases to achieve a specific purpose.



Example: Nicholson Baker’s *The Everlasting Story of Nory:*

“Nory was a Catholic because her mother was a Catholic, and Nory’s mother was a Catholic because her father was a Catholic, and her father was a Catholic because his mother was a Catholic, or had been.”

Why do you think the author chose to repeat the word “Catholic” six times in this sentence? What is Baker’s purpose?

SATIRE

Definition: “...a technique employed by writers to expose and criticize foolishness and corruption of an individual or a society by using humor, irony, exaggeration or ridicule. It intends to improve humanity by criticizing its follies and foibles. A writer in a satire uses fictional characters, which stand for real people, to expose and condemn their corruption” (<https://literarydevices.net/satire/>).

Example: The *Scary Movie* films make fun of the horror film genre. *Saturday Night Live* is exclusively satire.

PLOT - LINEAR VS. NONLINEAR

Plot: the sequence of events that make up a story.

Linear Plot: The events of the story happen in chronological order.

Nonlinear Plot: The events of the story do not happen in order. This often occurs when the author uses parallel plots or flashbacks. For example, *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* has four different plots as it jumps around between the four friends.

SUBPLOT

Definition: a part of the story of a book or play that develops separately from the main story.

Example: In the *Hunger Games*, the developing romance between Peeta and Katniss is a subplot.



INTERNAL VS. EXTERNAL CONFLICT

Internal Conflict: The conflict of the story happens within the character(s). For example, Meena in the movie *Sing* struggles with stage fright and self doubt. Both of these conflict exist within her. <https://youtu.be/UBsoZ0AfaAc>

External Conflict: The conflict is between a character and an outside force. Consider the conflict between the gang of bears and Mike, the Mouse, in the same movie. <https://youtu.be/9nuoxJyUdfQ>

FLASHBACK

Definition: When a character remembers something from the past.



DICTION

Definition: word choice, or the style of speaking that a writer, speaker, or character uses.

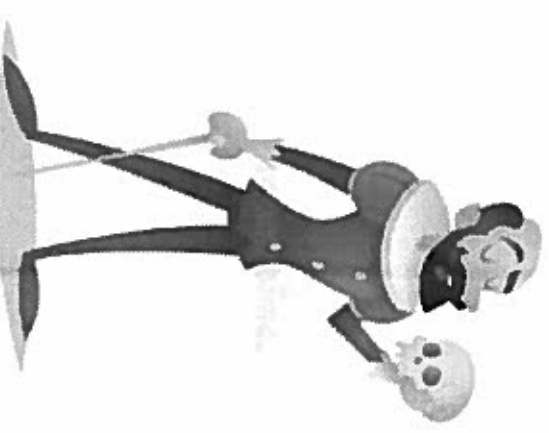
Example: From *To Kill a Mockingbird*—Jem Finch, a child:
"You can choose your friends but you sho' can't choose your family, an' they're still kin to you no matter whether you acknowledge 'em or not, and it makes you look right silly when you don't."

Example: Just look at the definition for *sophisticated diction*→ "Sophisticated diction is a manner of speaking usually associated with intellectualism or discourse among the societal elite." What kind of diction are you seeing in this definition?

SOLILOQUY

Definition: the act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself, regardless of any hearers. Essentially, a character talks to him or herself on stage. Soliloquies usually reveal important information to the audience regarding what a character is thinking, feeling, or planning.

Arguably the most famous soliloquy in history: The “To be, or not to be” speech from *Hamlet* when Hamlet contemplates suicide.



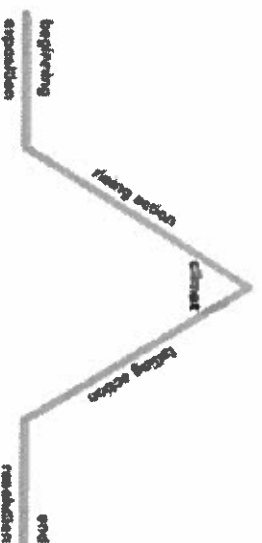
ASIDE

Definition: a dramatic device in which a character speaks directly to the audience.

Example:

**When a character or actor directly speaks to the audience it's called "breaking the 4th wall."*

REVIEW OF PLOT



Exposition- Provides background information to the audience regarding characters, setting, etc.

Rising Action- The events leading up to the climax. The problem in the story is introduced in the rising action.

Climax- The highest or most intense point in the story.

Falling Action- The events following the climax, leading up to the resolution.

Resolution- The unfolding or solution of a complicated issue in a story. *Note-some stories lack a resolution.