Literary Devices

Literary devices are used to enhance the clarity, effectiveness and enjoyment of writing. Here are some literary device examples: **Use the space provided to write 2-3 of your own examples**.

Alliteration- **When two or more words next to each other in a sentence begin with the same letter or sound.**

Examples: Creepy creatures

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Onomatopoeia- **When a word imitates the sound of the word that it describes.**

Examples: Pop, roar, oink

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Personification- **When non-living things are described using human characteristics.**

Example: The moonlight dances around the sky.

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Metaphor- **A comparison between two unlikely things not using “like” or “as”.**

Example: The world is a stage, and we are the actors.

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Simile- **A comparison made between two things that uses “like” or “as”.**

Example: The flood was like a fire that came and engulfed anything in its path.

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Oxy Moron- **A figure of speech that combines contradictory terms.**

Example: “Jumbo shrimp” “pretty ugly”

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Pun- **The humorous use of a**[**word**](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/word)**or phrase so as to emphasize or suggest its different meanings or applications, or the use of words that are alike or nearly alike in**[**sound**](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/sound)**but different in meaning; a play on words.**

Example: When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

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Hyperbole- **When something is exaggerated to enhance it.**

Example: There are a million reasons why I should fire you.

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Understatement- **When something is considered less important than it actually is.**

Example: It would be nice if you could make it home alive tonight.

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Irony- **When the intended meaning of something is the opposite of what is said/written/happens.**

Example: Someone posting “I hate computers” on Facebook.

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Allusion- **When a direct or indirect reference is made to someone/ something of greater significance.**

Example: “This place is a garden of Eden.”

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Imagery- **When words are used to create a visual picture in your mind.**

Example: The space shuttle whizzed through the air very quickly, and left a blinding stream of fluorescent blue lights behind.

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Paradox- **Is a statement that apparently contradicts itself and yet might be true.**

**Example:** “Nothing is impossible” “I am nobody”

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Cliché- **An overused expression or idea.**

Example: “Heart of gold” “In the nick of time” “Nerves of steel”

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