Literary Terms and Devices

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| **Device** | **Definition** | Example |
| Allegory | The rhetorical strategy of extending a metaphor through an entire narrative so that objects, persons, and actions in the text are equated with meanings that lie outside the text. | * Animal farm by George Orwell, where the various farm animals stand in for hierarchies of society |
| Alliteration | * The repetition of the same consonant sounds. | * He clasps the crag with crooked hands. |
| Allusion | * An indirect or direct reference to something you assume your audience will understand and appreciate. | * Her roles in E.T. and Irreconcilable Differences made Drew Barrymore the Shirley Temple of the 1980s. |
| Analogy | * A situation that is similar, comparable; a likeness in some respects. | * Just as the Romans did not build Rome in a day, so we need a long time to learn about the methods of essay development. |
| Anecdote | * A brief story that shares an interesting or amusing event dealing with one incident. | * Queen Mab story in Romeo and Juliet |
| Assonance | * Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds but not consonant sounds. | * fleet feet sweep by sleeping geeks. |
| Connotation | * An idea or meaning suggested/ implied by or associated with a word or thing in addition to its literatl meaning. | * Hollywood holds connotations of romance and glittering success. |
| Couplet | * A unit of verse consisting of two successive lines, usually rhyming and having the same meter and often forming a complete thought or syntactic unit. | * "If the phone rings,   hope then still clings." |
| Diction | * The choice and use of words. | * imagery, poetic devices, loaded words. |
| Enumeration | * The listing, in numerical order, of points or ideas. | * Firstly, I would like to say that … Secondly, it should ... and Thirdly. |
| Euphemism | * The substitution of a more delicate or less offensive word or phrase for another - both of which tend to mean the same thing. | * It’s not reverse racism, it’s affirmative action. |
| Foreshadowing | * An advance hint of what is to come in the story | * Benvolio to Romeo * “Take thou some new infection to thy eye, * And the rank poison of the old will die. “ |
| **hyperbole** | * A statement that stretches the truth to add emphasis and entertainment value. | * I feel like a thousand pounds. * He was ten feet tall. |
| Idiom | * A common phrase or expression that means something different from what the words actually say. | * She Got Cold Feet (She changed her mind). * It was raining cats and dogs (it was raining heavily). |
| Imagery | * A technique a writer uses to create pictures in the reader’s mind and to appeal to the senses of touch, taste, smell, or hearing. | * My Toboggan and I carve winter. We crunch over the powdery snow, the one by one glistening grains they sigh and squeak. |
| Irony | * A clash between what might be expected and what actually occurs * **Dramatic Irony** – the reader or audience knows about an event or situation that the character does not. * **Verbal Irony** – the speaker says one thing but means something else. | * I was simply overjoyed at having to return to school after the summer. |
| Jargon | * Specialized words or terminology used in certain situation and occupations. | * Dialoguing |
| Juxtaposition | * Place two ideas together so that their closeness and comparison create a sharp contrast or a new, sometimes ironic, meaning. | * In a shampoo commercial putting side by side pictures of the same person, one with them having dandruff. |
| Understatement | * The use of downplayed terms for the puspose of emphasis. | * Harrison Ford’s most famous character, Indiana Jones, has occassionally found himself in a bit of a jam. |
| Metaphor | * An expression that describes or implies a compararison between a person, place or thing. | * The sky was a blue sea. |
| Onomatopoeia | * Words whose sound makes you think of their meaning. | * Crash, slam, hush, click, bang, Buzz. |
| Oxymoron | * The joining of two contradictory words in a phrase. | * jumboshrimp. |
| Paradox | * An apparently contradictory statement that nevertheless contains an element of truth. | * In order to be healthy we need to get sick. It builds our immune system. |
| Parallel Structure | * The repetition of a grammatical structure in a sentence. | * Many people use drugs as a socializing tool, as a way of meeting new people, and as a way of becoming popular. |
| Parody | * **parody** is a form of satire that imitates another work of art in order to ridicule it. | * Austin powers as a Parody of the James Bond Movies. |
| Personification | * When the writer describes an animal, an object or thing as if it were a person. | * The wind whisteled through the trees. * the stars winked at us. |
| Pun | * A word or phrase with more than one possible meaning used to create comic effect. | * Time flys like an arrow, but fruit flies   like a banana |
| Rhetorical Question | * A question whose answer is already known or implied. | * It’s eleven o’clock. Do you know where your children are? |
| Satire | * A literary tone used to ridicule or make fun of human vice or weakness, often with the intent of correcting, or changing, the subject of the satiric attack. | * The Simpsons, Family Guy, This Hours has 22 Minutes. |
| Simile | * An expression that describes or directly compares a person, place or thing by comparing it to something else using the words “like” or “as”. | * The sky was like a blue sea. * The sky was as blue as the sea. |
| Slogan | * A short, catchy phrase used to attract the audience’s attention. | * Quality is our Recipe. * Just do it! (Nike). |
| Symbol | * A person, place or thing or event that is used to represent something else. | * White flag = surrender. |