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.
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| 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.
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| Anecdote | * A brief story that shares an interesting or amusing event dealing with one incident.
 | * Queen Mab story in Romeo and Juliet
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| 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.
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