

Figurative Language Resource Page

A tool that an author uses to help readers visualize what is happening in the story.

Some Types of Figurative Language

Alliteration: Repeated consonant sounds at the beginning of several words in a phrase (Robbie saw rabbits resting by roses.)

Allusion: a brief and indirect reference to a person, place, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance. It does not describe in detail but just a passing comment and the writer expects the reader to possess enough knowledge to spot the allusion and grasp its importance in a text. ("Don't act like a Romeo in front of her." – "Romeo" is a reference to Shakespeare's Romeo, a passionate lover of Juliet, in "Romeo and Juliet".)

Hyperbole: An exaggeration (That building can touch the clouds.)

Idiom: An expression that cannot be understood from the individual meanings of its elements, as in kick the bucket or under the weather.

Irony: The opposite of what is meant.

Metaphor: A comparison of two unlike things that suggests a similarity between the two items (Love is a rose.)

Onomatopoeia: Words that sound like what they are. (POP! BAM! SLOSH)

Oxymoron: two opposite ideas are joined to create an effect. The common oxymoron phrase is a combination of an adjective preceded by a noun with contrasting meanings, such as "cruel kindness," or "living death".

Personification: Making an inanimate object or animal act like a person

Puns: A word or words, which are formed or sounded alike, but have different meaning; to have more than one possible meaning. (Using that pencil is pointless.)

Simile: A comparison using "like" or "as" (She sings like an angel.)