

Literary Devices Notes—10th Grade Elements of Literature

1. Theme—life lesson that an author wants readers to walk away with
2. Figurative language—any language that helps create images of sight, sound, taste, smell, touch
3. Simile—comparing two things using *like* or *as*
4. Metaphor—comparing two things by saying one is the other
5. Repetition—when words or phrases are repeated
6. Parallelism—when phrases in a sentence have similar or the same grammatical structure. In its most basic usage, parallelism provides a phrase with balance and clarity. Parallelism also serves to give phrases a pattern and rhythm.
7. Euphony—the use of beautiful, melodious-sounding words.
8. Cacophony—use of words with harsh, rough, or unharmonious sounds for a noisy or jarring poetic effect.
9. Imaginative comparison—use of figurative language in prose and/or poetry
10. Symbol—any image or thing that stands for something else.
11. Irony—when there are two contradicting meanings of the same situation, event, image, sentence, phrase, or story. In many cases, this refers to the difference between expectations and reality.
12. Allusion—reference to another piece of literature, historical person, or major event
13. Extended metaphor—the author takes a single metaphor and employs it at length, using various subjects, images, ideas and situations. Allegory is a type of extended metaphor
14. Allegory—It has a “surface story” and another story hidden underneath; in most allegories, the hidden story has something to do with politics, religion, or morality

Examples

Animal Farm

“The Sneetches”

15. Metonymy—replaces words with related or associated words. A metonym is typically a part of a larger whole, for example, when we say “wheels,” we are figuratively referring to a “car” and not literally only the wheels
16. Synecdoche—part replaces a whole or a whole replaces a part.

The White House released a statement last week.

17. Personification—giving inanimate objects or non-human things human-like qualities
18. Alliteration—repetition of sounds; can be assonance or consonance
19. Anaphora—the deliberate repetition of beginning words

20. Couplet—two lines of poetry that rhyme; they must be next to each other!
21. Apostrophe—a speaker directly addresses someone or something that isn't present in the poem

“Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.”

22. Hyperbole—overstatement; exaggeration
23. Dialect—specific area, class, district or any other group of people.
24. Verbal irony—involves saying what one does not mean
25. Satire—exposes and criticizes foolishness and corruption of an individual or a society by using [humor](#), [irony](#), [exaggeration](#) or ridicule
26. Litotes—Litotes is an [understatement](#) in which a positive statement is expressed by negating its opposite.

“you don’t excel at math”

“I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be small.” (Jeremiah 30:19)