

LITERARY ELEMENTS/ POETIC DEVICES

What is Onomatopoeia?

Onomatopoeia is a word that sounds like the word it is describing.

Writers and poets use onomatopoeia to help the reader know what they mean. It is a poetic device that imitates the sound of the meaning.

Examples:

Sizzle: The eggs sizzled on the stove.

Knock-knock, as used in 'knock-knock jokes'

Thump: We heard a thump on the porch.

Buzz: The buzz of the bees in the garden is a sure sign of summer.

Boom: The sonic boom shook the windows.

What is Alliteration?

Alliteration

sounds.

Examples

Bailey blew
consonant

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eating

David drove
repeating

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D is the

What is Rhyme?

Two words that have a similar sound are said to **rhyme**.

Examples:

Chew and glue are two words that rhyme.

Charming and alarming are two words that rhyme too.

What is Repetition?

Repetition is the act or process of repeating. You can use repetition in your poetry by repeating words, phrases, or sounds.

Example:

The scent of the rose filled the room.
She placed the rose carefully on the desk.
She could not keep her eyes off the rose.
She could not keep her eyes off the rose.
She could not keep her eyes off the rose.

The word rose and the phrase “she could not keep her eyes off the rose” were repeated several times in the poem to show emphasis and to mimic her focus on the rose.

What is Personification?

Personification is the act of giving an animal or object human qualities of a person.

Examples

The smiling sun.
(The sun can not really smile; smiling is a human action.)

The crying rain.
(The rain can not really cry; crying is a human action.)

(The rain can not really cry; crying is a human action.)



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What is a Hyperbole?

Hyperbole is an exaggerated comparison.

Examples:

Sam was so hungry that he said he could eat a horse.
(Sam really wouldn't be able to eat a horse; the exaggeration is used to show how hungry he feels.)

Matt's feet were as big as a house.
(Matt's feet really weren't as big as a house; the exaggeration is used to emphasize the size of his feet.)

What is a Simile?

A **simile** is a figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared, using the words *like* or *as*.

Examples:

The rain is like a sweet symphony.
(the rain and a symphony are being compared)

Similes are used to describe something.

Authors use similes to make their writing more interesting.

What is a Metaphor?

A **metaphor** is a figure of speech that compares two different things without using the words like or as.

Example:

The baby is
(baby and

Metaphors

Authors us



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g too.