

Literary Devices – Use with CCR #2

Does the author use these? Where? Why? To what effect?

Symbolism

The use of specific objects or images to represent abstract ideas. A symbol must be tangible (visible) while the idea it represents must be abstract or universal.

Ex: "Doves symbolize peace."

Style

The way the writer chooses to arrange his sentence structure (syntax) as well as the words (diction) he chooses. What is the overall effect of the way he writes? Simple, involved, poetic, humorous, child-like? How does it contribute to the author's message and the overall effect the author wishes to create?

Tone

The author's attitude towards what (s)he is writing that translates into your attitude: or - what is the *feeling* of the whole work and the writing/artist's craft? Joyful? Melancholy? Fatalistic? Angry? Peaceful? Scary? Mysterious?

Figurative Language

What kinds of comparisons are made that add layers to the meaning of the poem or story?

A **metaphor** is a direct comparison: my love is a rose, or he was a snake.

A **simile** is indirect, mediated by "like" or "as": my love is like a rose, or he was as mean as a snake.

Allusion is a reference to another literary or artistic work or cultural icon/event.

Hyperbole – exaggeration (Ex: *I have a million things to do today*)

Personification - giving non-human objects human characteristics

Foreshadowing is the use of clues to suggest something that is going to happen.

Imagery

The author's attempt to create a mental picture (or reference point) in the mind of the reader. Remember, though the most immediate forms of imagery are visual, strong and effective imagery can be used to invoke an emotional, sensational (taste, touch, smell etc) or even physical response.

Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of a consonant sound at the beginning of words.

(Ex: "*sweet smell of success*")

Onomatopoeia

The use of words to imitate sounds is called onomatopoeia.

(Ex: "*bang, pop, hiss, sizzle*")

Repetition

The use of a specific word, phrase, or structure repeated several times, usually in close proximity, to emphasize a particular idea.