7th & 8th Grade Literature
2014-15 Figurative Language Terms

1. **Literal Language**: says what it means, for example, 'It is time to feed the cats and dogs.' The phrase 'cats an dogs' is used in a literal sense, for the animals are hungry and it is time for them to eat.

2. **Figurative Language**: is not meant to be taken literally. Writers especially poets, use figurative language to help readers see things in new ways.

3. **Alliteration**: repetition of the initial consonant sounds. (Example: The **g**reen **g**rass **g**rew in the **g**raveyard.

4. **Allusion**: is a figure of speech where the author refers to a subject matter such as a person, place, event or literary work in a passing reference. The reference is from history, literature, current events or popular culture. It is up to the reader to make a connection to the subject being mentioned.

5. **Cliche**: is an expression, idea, or element of work, which has become overused to the point of losing its original meaning, even to the point of being irritating.

6. **Idiom**: is an expression that is peculiar to itself grammatically or cannot be understood from its elements, but is understood by most people. (Example: down slip: letter that comes to a student's home letting parents/guardians know that their student is earning a "D" or "F" in a specific class.)

7. **Metaphor**: speaking of something as if it were something else – **doesn't use** "like", "as", or "**than**". (Example: "It was raining cats and dogs.")

8. **Onomatopoeia**: refers to words that imitate or represent a sound. (Examples: splat, sizzle, hiss, thud, etc.)

9. **Oxymoron**: a figure of speech that combines two contradictory terms. (Examples: Act naturally, Pretty ugly, Awfully pretty)

10. **Personification**: is the practice of attaching human traits and characteristics with inanimate objects, phenomena and animals. (Example: The black **smoke danced** across the sky.)

11. **Pun:** is a play on words sometimes on different senses of the same word and sometimes on the similar sense or sound of different words. (Example: Sir Lancelot once had a very bad dream about his horse. It was a knight mare!)

12. **Simile:** is a comparison between two things unrelated and dissimilar things using **like** or **as**. (Example: The **fog** was as thick as **soup**.)

13. **Hyperbole:** an exaggerated statement used to heighten effect and make a point. (Example: I love the **whole** world.)

14. **Repetition:** when the writer or speaker knowingly repeats a word or group of words for effect. (Example: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

15. **Imagery:** the author uses words or phrases to create "mental images" for the reader using the 5 senses. (Sight, Hearing, Taste, Touch & Smell)

16. **Euphemism:** a mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. (Example: downsizing / cuts)

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