Some Types of Figurative and Descriptive Language

Figurative Language— Language that involves the use of words and/or phrases that describe one thing in terms of another and that is not meant to be understood on a literal level. Figurative language always involves some sort of imaginative comparison between seemingly unlike things.

Figurative Language: simile, metaphor, symbolism, personification, hyperbole, idiom, pun.

Descriptive Language— Language intended to create a mood, person, place, thing, event, emotion, or experience. Descriptive language uses images that appeal to the reader's senses, helping the reader to imagine how a subject looks, sounds, smells, tastes, or feels.

Descriptive Language: tone, irony, mood, imagery, alliteration, onomatopoeia, allusion, satire.

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

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

Idiom: An expression that cannot be understood from the individual meanings of its elements. (ex: kick the bucket or under the weather)

Irony: The opposite of what is meant. (ex: as pleasant as a root canal)

Metaphor: A comparison of two unlike things that suggests a similarity

between the two items. (ex: Love is a rose.)

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

Personification: Giving an inanimate object or animal human attributes. (ex: The cow spoke to me, or the rock lies on its back.)

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

Puns: A pun is the use of a word or words that either have multiple meanings or sound like other words, the result of which is often humorous. (ex: Denial is not just a river in Egypt, or make like a tree and leave.)