

# Literary Devices Package

## Allegory

### 1. Definition

Allegory is a figure of speech in which abstract ideas and principles are described in terms of characters, figures, and events. It can be employed in prose and poetry to tell a story, with a purpose of teaching or explaining an idea or a principle. The objective of its use is to teach some kind of a moral lesson.

### 2. Difference Between Allegory & Symbolism

Although an allegory uses symbols, it is different from symbolism. An allegory is a complete narrative that involves characters and events that stand for an abstract idea or event. A symbol, on the other hand, is an object that stands for another object, giving it a particular meaning. Unlike allegory, symbolism does not tell a story. For example, Plato, in his *Allegory of Cave*, tells a story of how some people are ignorant, while at the same time other people “see the light.” Plato’s allegory stands for an idea and does not tell an actual story.

### 3. Examples of Allegory in Everyday Life

Allegory is an archaic term, which is used specifically in literary works. It is difficult to spot its occurrence in everyday life, although recently we do find examples of allegory in political debates. The declaration of former U.S. President George W. Bush was allegorical when he used the term “Axis of Evil” in referring to three countries considered a danger to the world. He later used the term “allies” for those countries that would wage war against the “Axis.”

### 4. Examples of Allegory in Literature

Example #1: *Animal Farm* (by George Orwell)

*Animal Farm*, written by George Orwell, is an allegory that uses animals on a farm to describe the overthrow of the last Russian Tsar, Nicholas II, and the Communist Revolution of Russia before WW I. The actions of the animals on the farm are used to expose the greed and corruption of the revolution. It also describes how powerful people can change the ideology of a society. One of the cardinal rules on the farm is this:

“All animals are equal but a few are more equal than others.”

For instance, the pigs represent those who came to power following the revolution; “Mr. Jones,” the owner of the farm, represents the overthrown Tsar Nicholas II; while “Boxer” the horse, represents the labourer class. The use of allegory in the novel allows Orwell to make his position clear about the Russian Revolution and expose its evils.

## Example #2: Pilgrim's Progress (by John Bunyan)

John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* is an example of spiritual allegory. The ordinary sinner, Christian, leaves the City of Destruction, and travels towards Celestial City, where God resides, for salvation. He finds Faithful, a companion who helps him on his way to the City. On many instances, many characters, including Hypocrisy, Apollyon, Mr. Worldly Wiseman, Obstinate, and Pliable try to discourage or stop him from achieving his aim. Finally, he reaches the Celestial City, carried by Hopeful's faith.

The moral learned through this allegory is that the road to Heaven is not easy, and it is full of obstacles. A Christian has to be willing to pay any price to achieve salvation. A man is full of sins, but this does not stop him from achieving glory.

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## Antagonist

### 1. Definition

In literature, an antagonist is a character, or a group of characters, which stands in opposition to the *protagonist*, which is the main character. The term "antagonist" comes from the Greek word *antagonistēs*, which means "opponent," "competitor," or "rival."

It is common to refer to an antagonist as a *villain* (the bad guy), against whom a *hero* (the good guy) fights in order to save himself or others. In some cases, an antagonist may exist within the protagonist that causes an inner conflict or a moral conflict inside his mind. This inner conflict is a major theme of many literary works, such as *Doctor Faustus*, by Christopher Marlowe, *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare, and *A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*, by James Joyce. Generally, an antagonist appears as a foil to the main character, embodying qualities that are in contrast with the qualities of the main character.

### 2. Examples of Antagonists in Literature

#### Example #1: Antigone (by Sophocles)

A classical example of an antagonist is that of King Creon in Sophocles' tragedy *Antigone*. Here, the function of the antagonist is to obstruct the main character's progress, through evil plots and actions. Antigone, the protagonist, struggles against King Creon, the antagonist, in her effort to give her brother a respectable burial. Through his evil designs, Creon tries to hamper her in this attempt by announcing that her brother was a traitor, and decreeing that "he must be left to the elements." This protagonist-antagonist conflict becomes the theme of this tragedy.

#### Examples #2: Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde (by Robert Louis Stevenson)

In his novel *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Robert Louis Stevenson explores the theme of doppelganger in which Hyde is not only an evil double of the honorable Dr. Jekyll, but his antagonist. Jekyll creates Hyde by a series of scientific experiments in order to prove his statement:

"Man is not truly one, but truly two."

He means that a human soul is a mixture of evil and good. In other words, every man's antagonist exists within himself. Hyde is the manifestation of the evil that existed in the honorable Dr. Jekyll. Well-known as a respectable Victorian gentleman, Jekyll could never have fulfilled his evil desires. He separated his "evil-self" and gave him a separate identity, thus inventing his own antagonist who, as a result, brings his downfall.

Example #3: To Kill a Mocking Bird (by Harper Lee)

Bob Ewell is a malicious antagonist in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mocking Bird*. Being convinced that Mayella may have been guilty of committing a crime, Ewell is bent on making sure that someone else gets the punishment. Ewell keeps on following Atticus, Judge Taylor, and Helen Robinson – even after the case is finished – and goes to the extent that he almost kills the Finch kids. In defense of Boo over the killing of Bob Ewell, Heck Tate said:

“To my way of think’, Mr Finch, taking the one man who’s done you and this town a great favour an’ draggin’ him with his shy ways into the limelight – to me, that’s a sin. It’s a sing and I’m not about to have it on my head. If it was any other man, it’d be different. But not this man, Mr Finch.”

### 3. Function of the Antagonist

Conflict is a basic element of any plot. The presence of an antagonist alongside a protagonist is vital for the typical formula of a plot. The antagonist opposes the protagonist in his endeavours, and thus the conflict ensues. The protagonist struggles against the antagonist, taking the plot to a climax. Later, the conflict is resolved with the defeat of the antagonist; or, as in tragedies, with the downfall of the protagonist.

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## Alliteration

### 1. Definition

Alliteration is derived from Latin's "*Latira*". It means "letters of alphabet". It is a stylistic device in which a number of words, having the same first consonant sound, occur close together in a series.

Consider the following examples:

- But a better butter makes a batter better.
- A big bully beats a baby boy.

Both sentences are alliterative because the same first letter of words (B) occurs close together and produces alliteration in the sentence. An important point to remember here is that alliteration does not depend on letters but on sounds. So the phrase *not knotty* is alliterative, but *cigarette chase* is not.

### 2. Alliteration Examples in Literature

Example #1: From Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"

*"The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,  
The furrow followed free;  
We were the first that ever burst  
Into that silent sea."*

In the above lines we see alliteration ("b", "f" and "s") in the phrases "breeze blew", "foam flew", "furrow followed", and "silent sea".

Example #2: From James Joyce's "The Dead"

"His soul swooned slowly as he heard the snow falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead."

We notice several instances of alliteration in the above mentioned prose work of James Joyce. Alliterations are with "s" and "f" in the phrases "swooned slowly" and "falling faintly".

Example #3: From William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"

*"From forth the fatal loins of these two foes;  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life."*

This is an example of alliteration with the "f" and "l." in words "forth, fatal, foes" and "loins, lovers, and life".

### 3. Function of Alliteration

Alliteration has a very vital role in poetry and prose. It creates a musical effect in the text that enhances the pleasure of reading a literary piece. It makes reading and recitation of the poems attractive and appealing; thus, making them easier to learn by heart. Furthermore, it renders flow and beauty to a piece of writing.

In the marketing industry, as what we have already discussed, alliteration makes the brand names interesting and easier to remember. This literary device is helpful in attracting customers and enhancing sales.

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## Analogy

### 1. Definition

An analogy is a comparison in which an idea or a thing is compared to another thing that is quite different from it. It aims at explaining that idea or thing by comparing it to something that is familiar. Metaphors and similes are tools used to draw an analogy. Therefore, analogy is more extensive and elaborate than either a simile or a metaphor. Consider the following example:

*"The structure of an atom is like a solar system. The nucleus is the sun, and electrons are the planets revolving around their sun."*

Here, an atomic structure is compared to a solar system by using the word "like." Therefore, it is a simile. Metaphor is used to relate the nucleus to the sun, and the electrons to the planets, without using the words "like" or "as." Hence, similes and metaphors are employed to develop an analogy.

### 2. Examples of Analogy in Everyday Life

We commonly use analogy in our everyday conversation. Some common analogy examples are given below:

- Life is like a race. The one who keeps running wins the race, and the one who stops to catch a breath loses.
- Just as a sword is the weapon of a warrior, a pen is the weapon of a writer.
- How a doctor diagnoses diseases is like how a detective investigates crimes.
- Just as a caterpillar comes out of its cocoon, so we must come out of our comfort zone.
- You are as annoying as nails on a chalkboard.

### 3. Examples of Analogy in Literature

Example #1: Night Clouds (by Amy Lowell)

*“The white mares of the moon rush along the sky  
Beating their golden hoofs upon the glass Heavens.”*

Here, the poet constructs an analogy between clouds and mares. She compares the movement of the white clouds in the sky at night with that of the white mares on the ground.

Example #2: The Day is Done (by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)

*“Read from some humbler poet,  
Whose songs gushed from his heart,  
As showers from the clouds of summer,  
Or tears from the eyelids start.”*

He relates his poems to the summer showers and tears from the eyes. He develops the similarity to show spontaneity of art when it directly comes out from the heart of an artist.

### 4. Function of Analogy

Writers use analogy to link an unfamiliar or a new idea with common and familiar objects. This makes it easier for readers to comprehend a new idea, which may have been difficult for them to understand otherwise. In addition, by employing this literary tool, writers catch the attention of their readers. Analogies help increase readers’ interest as analogies help them relate what they read to their life.

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## Allusion

### 1. Definition

Allusion is a brief and indirect reference to a person, place, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance. It does not describe in detail the person or thing to which it refers. It is just a passing comment and the writer expects the reader to possess enough knowledge to spot the allusion and grasp its importance in a text.

For instance, you make a literary allusion the moment you say, “I do not approve of this *quixotic* idea,” Quixotic means stupid and impractical derived from Cervantes’s “Don Quixote”, a story of a foolish knight and his misadventures.

### 2. Allusion Examples in Everyday Speech

The use allusions are not confined to literature alone. Their occurrence is fairly common in our daily speech. Look at some common allusion examples in everyday life:

1. “Don’t act like a Romeo in front of her.” – “Romeo” is a reference to Shakespeare’s Romeo, a passionate lover of Juliet, in “Romeo and Juliet”.
2. The rise in poverty will unlock the Pandora’s box of crimes. – This is an allusion to one of Greek Mythology’s origin myth, “Pandora’s box”.
3. “This place is like a Garden of Eden.” – This is a biblical allusion to the “garden of God” in the Book of Genesis.
4. “Hey! Guess who the new Newton of our school is?” – “Newton”, means a genius student, alludes to a famous scientist Isaac Newton.

5. "Stop acting like my ex-husband please." – Apart from scholarly allusions we refer to common people and places in our speech.

### 3. Examples of Allusion in Literature

Example #1: Paradise Lost by Milton

*"All night the dread less Angel unpursu'd  
Through Heav'ns wide Champain held his way, till Morn,  
Wak't by the circling House, with rosie hand  
Unbarr'd the gates of Light. There is a Cave  
Within the Mount of God, fast by his Throne."*

In the above lines "dread less Angel" is a reference to "Abdiel", a fearless angel. "Circling Hours" alludes to a Greek Myth "The Horae", the daughters of "Zeus" and "Themis" namely "Thallo (Spring), Auxo (Summer) and Carpo (Fall). " With rosie hand" Milton refers to Homer's illustration of the "rosy fingered dawn" (Odyssey Book 2).

### 4. Function of Allusion

By and large, the use of allusions enables writers or poets to simplify complex ideas and emotions. The readers comprehend the complex ideas by comparing the emotions of the writer or poet to the references given by them. Furthermore, the references to Greek Mythology give a dreamlike and magical touch to the works of art. Similarly, biblical allusions appeal to the readers with religious backgrounds.

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## Atmosphere

### 1. Definition

A literary technique, atmosphere is a type of feeling that readers get from a narrative, based on details such as setting, background, objects, and foreshadowing. A mood can serve as a vehicle for establishing atmosphere. In literary works, atmosphere refers to emotions or feelings an author conveys to his readers through description of objects and settings, such as in J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* tales, in which she spins a whimsical and enthralling atmosphere. Bear in mind that atmosphere may vary throughout a literary piece.

### 2. Difference Between Atmosphere and Mood

Many people use both terms interchangeably, as there is no concrete difference between them. However, in literature we find a mild difference. This is because atmosphere is a broader term, and may be set by a certain venue, such as a theater.

However, mood is a more specific and narrow term, concerning emotions of a certain individual or group of individuals, and it does not incorporate the emotions or feelings radiating throughout a venue. Simply, mood is about internal feelings, while atmosphere exists at a particular spot. Besides, a mood contributes for building up the entire atmosphere of a narrative.

### 3. Examples of Atmosphere in Literature

Example #1: An Unspoken Hunger by Terry Tempest Williams

*"It is an unspoken hunger we deflect with knives – one avocado between us, cut neatly in half, twisted then separated from the large wooden pit. With the green fleshy boats in hand, we slice vertical strips from one end to the other. Vegetable planks. We smother the avocado with salsa, hot*

*chiles at noon in the desert. We look at each other and smile, eating avocados with sharp silver blades, risking the blood of our tongues repeatedly."*

Here, Williams creates a dangerous atmosphere, where she presents the hazards of knives and avocados. In fact, when an author tries to establish atmosphere by using objects, these objects represent unspoken reality. Besides, appearance of two characters also adds to a sexually charged atmosphere.

Example #2: The Vision by Dean Koontz

*"The woman raised her hands and stared at them; stared through them. Her voice was soft but tense. 'Blood on his hands.' Her own hands were clean and pale."*

When we read these lines, they immediately bring to our mind an emotional response, and draw our attention. This is exactly what atmosphere does in a literary work.

Example #3: The Raven by Edgar Allen Poe

*"Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,  
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore -  
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,  
As of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door -  
'Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door -  
Only this and nothing more."*

In this excerpt, the experience of readers is suspenseful and exciting, as they anticipate horror due to feelings within the narrative. As we see, this character hears tapping on the door and, when opens it, he finds nobody there, only darkness; making the atmosphere fearful and tense.

#### 4. Function of Atmosphere

The purpose of establishing atmosphere is to create emotional effect. It makes a literary work lively, fascinating, and interesting by keeping the audience more engaged. It appeals to the readers' senses by making the story more real, allowing them to comprehend the idea easily. Since atmosphere makes the audience feel in an indirect way, writers can convey harsh feelings with less severity. Writers control the impact of prevailing atmosphere by changing the description of settings and objects.

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## Auditory Imagery

### 1. Definition

Auditory imagery is used to explain things, ideas and actions using sounds that appeal to our sense of hearing. It is intended to invoke up sound images in the minds of the readers. In literature, it means to use words and literary devices in a way that they make readers experience sounds when reading poetry or prose.

It gives the writers a tool to make their texts vibrant and gripping with the use of the words targeting to the sense of hearing of the readers. In fact, it is deliberately inserted to evoke sensory experiences. In this sense, it makes the text appealing to the ears. Its pivotal role is to make the readers connect to the text. It is written as a phrase of two words auditory and imagery. It means that it is related to the images of sounds that we feel in our ears through words.

## 2. Examples of Auditory Imagery from Literature

Example #1: To Autumn by John Keats

*“Where are the songs of spring? Ay, where are they?*

*Think not of them, thou hast thy music too, -*

*While barred clouds boom the soft-dying day,*

*And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;*

*Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn*

*Among the river shallows, borne aloft*

*Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;*

*And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;*

*Hedge-crickets sing, and now with treble-soft*

*The red-breast whistle from a garden-croft;*

*And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.”*

To Autumn is a phenomenal poem that relates the life's stages to the autumn season. The poem explores the phenomenon of unconventional appreciation for the fall season. It comprises the experience of the poet, his meditation and poetic imagination. However, Keats has used auditory imagery in this final paragraph of the poem where animal sounds appealing to the sense of hearing such as, “lambs loud bleat”, “hedge cricket sing”, “the red-breast whistles” and “gathering swallows twitter”.

## 3. Auditory Imagery Meaning and Functions

Auditory imagery aids the reader's imagination about different sounds, types of sounds and their impacts on the readers. This imagery provides the audience with an opportunity to perceive things with their sense of hearing. It also gives them a chance to understand the fictive world and to envision the writer's imagination about sounds. Its effective use can make the text more lifelike and descriptive.

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## Characterisation

### 1. Definition

Characterization is a literary device that is used step-by-step in literature to highlight and explain the details about a character in a story. It is in the initial stage in which the writer introduces the character with noticeable emergence. After introducing the character, the writer often talks about his behavior; then, as the story progresses, the thought-processes of the character.

The next stage involves the character expressing his opinions and ideas, and getting into conversations with the rest of the characters. The final part shows how others in the story respond to the character's personality.

Characterization as a literary tool was coined in the mid 15th century. Aristotle in his Poetics argued that “tragedy is a representation, not of men, but of action and life.” Thus the assertion of the dominance of plot over characters, termed “plot-driven narrative,” is unmistakable. This point of view was later abandoned by many because, in the 19th century, the dominance of character over plot became clear through petty bourgeois novels.

## 2. Types of Characterisation

An author can use two approaches to deliver information about a character and build an image of it. These two types of characterization include:

### **-Direct or explicit characterization**

This kind of characterization takes a direct approach towards building the character. It uses another character, narrator, or the protagonist himself to tell the readers or audience about the subject.

### **-Indirect or implicit characterization**

This is a more subtle way of introducing the character to the audience. The audience has to deduce for themselves the characteristics of the character by observing his/her thought process, behavior, speech, way of talking, appearance, and manner of communication with other characters, as well as by discerning the response of other characters.

## 3. Examples of Characterisation in Literature

Example #1: *The Great Gatsby* (by F. Scott Fitzgerald)

There are many examples of characterization in literature. *The Great Gatsby*, is probably the best. In this particular book, the main idea revolves around the social status of each character. The major character of the book, Mr. Gatsby, is perceptibly rich, but he does not belong to the upper stratum of society. This means that he cannot have Daisy. Tom is essentially defined by his wealth and the abusive nature that he portrays every now and then, while Daisy is explained by Gatsby as having a voice "full of money."

Another technique to highlight the qualities of a character is to put them in certain areas that are symbolic of a social status. In the novel, Gatsby resides in the West Egg, which is considered less trendy than East Egg, where Daisy lives. This difference points out the gap between Jay's and Daisy's social statuses. Moreover, you might also notice that Tom, Jordan, and Daisy live in East Egg while Gatsby and Nick reside in West Egg, which again highlights the difference in their financial background. This division is reinforced at the end of the novel when Nick supports Gatsby against the rest of the folk.

Occupations have also been used very tactfully in the novel to highlight characteristics of certain protagonists. The prime example is Gatsby who, despite being so rich, is known by his profession: bootlegging. He had an illegal job that earned him a fortune, but failed to get him into the upper class of New York society. In contrast, Nick has a clean and fair job of a "bond man" that defines his character. The poor guy Wilson, who fixes rich people's cars, befriends his wife; and then there is Jordan, who is presented as a dishonest golf pro.

## 4. Function of Characterisation

Characterization is an essential component in writing good literature. Modern fiction, in particular, has taken great advantage of this literary device. Understanding the role of characterization in storytelling is very important for any writer. To put it briefly, it helps us make sense of the behavior of any character in a story by helping us understand their thought processes. A good use of characterization always leads the readers or audience to relate better to the events taking place in the story. Dialogues play a very important role in developing a character, because they give us an opportunity to examine the motivations and actions of the characters more deeply.

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# Climax

## 1. Definition

Climax, a Greek term meaning “ladder,” is that particular point in a narrative at which the conflict or tension hits the highest point. It is a structural part of a plot, and is at times referred to as a “crisis.” It is a decisive moment or a turning point in a storyline at which the rising action turns around into a falling action. Thus, a climax is the point at which a conflict or crisis reaches its peak, then calls for a resolution or *denouement* (conclusion). In a five-act play, the climax is close to the conclusion of act 3. Later in the 19th century, five-act plays were replaced by three-act plays, and the climax was placed close to the conclusion or at the end of the play.

## 2. Examples of Climax in Literature

Example #1: *Romeo and Juliet* (by William Shakespeare)

In William Shakespeare’s play *Romeo and Juliet*, the story reaches its climax in Act 3. In the first scene of the act, Romeo challenges Tybalt to a duel after he (Tybalt) killed Mercutio:

*“And fire-eyed fury be my conduct now!  
Now, Tybalt, take the ‘villain’ back again  
That late thou gavest me; for Mercutio’s soul  
Is but a little way above our heads ...”*

As soon as he killed Tybalt, Romeo says:

*“O! I am Fortune’s Fool!”*

He realizes that he has killed his wife’s cousin. This juncture in the play is a climax, as the audience wonders how Romeo would get out of this terrible situation. Similarly, it qualifies as a climax because, after this act, all the prior conflicts start to be resolved, and mysteries unfold themselves, thus moving the story toward its logical conclusion during the coming scenes.

## 3. Climax as a Stylistic Device

As a stylistic device, the term climax refers to a literary device in which words, phrases, and clauses are arranged in an order to increase their importance within the sentence. The following are examples of climax as a stylistic device:

Example #2: *The Passionate Pilgrim* (by William Shakespeare)

*“Beauty is but a vain and doubtful good;  
A shining gloss that fadeth suddenly;  
A flower that dies when first it gins to bud;  
A brittle glass that’s broken presently:  
A doubtful good, a gloss, a glass, a flower,  
Lost, faded, broke, dead within an hour.”*

The phrase “dead within an hour” is placed at the very end, as it marks the climax of the fate of beauty, which he introduces as “a vain and doubtful good.”

## 4. Function of Climax

A climax, when used as a plot device, helps readers understand the significance of the previously rising action to the point in the plot where the conflict reaches its peak. The climax of the story makes readers mentally prepared for the resolution of the conflict. Hence, it is important to the plot structure of a story. Moreover, climax is used as a stylistic device or a figure of speech to render balance and brevity to speech or writing. Being pre-employed, it qualifies itself as a powerful tool

that can instantly capture the undivided attention of listeners and readers alike. Hence, its importance cannot be underestimated.

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## Conflict

### 1. Definition

In literature, conflict is a literary element that involves a struggle between two opposing forces, usually a protagonist and an antagonist.

### 2. Internal and External Conflict

Careful examination of some conflict examples will help us realize that they may be internal or external.

An internal or psychological conflict arises as soon as a character experiences two opposite emotions or desires – usually virtue and vice, or good and evil – inside him. This disagreement causes the character to suffer mental agony, and it develops a unique tension in a storyline, marked by a lack of action.

External conflict, on the other hand, is marked by a characteristic involvement of an action wherein a character finds himself in struggle with those outside forces that hamper his progress. The most common type of external conflict is where a protagonist fights back against the antagonist's tactics that impede his or her advancement.

### 3. Examples of Conflict in Literature

#### Example #1: Hamlet (by William Shakespeare)

Hamlet's internal conflict is the main driver in William Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*. It decides his tragic downfall. He reveals his state of mind in the following lines from Act 3, Scene 1 of the play:

*"To be, or not to be – that is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles  
And by opposing end them. To die, to sleep..."*

The conflict here is that Hamlet wants to kill his father's murderer, Claudius, but he also looks for proof to justify his action. This ultimately ruins his life, and the lives of his loved ones. Due to his internal conflict, Hamlet spoils his relationship with his mother, and sends Ophelia (Hamlet's love interest) into such a state of despair that she commits suicide.

Hamlet's indecisiveness almost got everyone killed at the end of the play. The resolution came when he killed Claudius by assuming fake madness so that he would not be asked for any justification. In the same play, we find Hamlet engaged in an external conflict with his uncle Claudius.

#### Example #2: Doctor Faustus (by Christopher Marlowe)

Another example of an internal conflict is found in the character of Doctor Faustus in Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*. Faustus has an ambitious nature. In spite of being a respected scholar, he sold his soul to Lucifer by signing a contract with his blood, in order to achieve ultimate power and limitless pleasure in this world. He learns the art of black magic, and defies Christianity.

After the aforementioned action, we see Faustus suffering from an internal conflict where he thinks honestly about repenting, acting upon the advice of “the good angel,” but “the bad angel” or the evil inside him distracts him by saying it is all too late. In conclusion, the resolution comes when devils take his soul away to Hell, and he suffers eternal damnation because of his over-ambition.

#### 4. Function of Conflict

Both internal and external conflicts are essential elements of a storyline. It is essential for a writer to introduce and develop them, whether internal, external, or both, in his storyline in order to achieve the story’s goal. Resolution of the conflict entertains the readers.

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## Dialogue

### 1. Definition

A dialogue is a literary technique in which writers employ two or more characters to be engaged in conversation with one another. In literature, it is a conversational passage, or a spoken or written exchange of conversation in a group, or between two persons directed towards a particular subject. The use of dialogues can be seen back in classical literature, especially in Plato’s *Republic*. Several other philosophers also used this technique for rhetorical and argumentative purposes. Generally, it makes a literary work enjoyable and lively.

### 2. Types of Dialogue

There are two types of dialogue in literature:

- **Inner Dialogue** – In inner dialogue, the characters speak to themselves and reveal their personalities. To use inner dialogue, writers employ literary techniques like stream of consciousness or dramatic monologue. We often find such dialogues in the works of James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and William Faulkner.
- **Outer Dialogue** – Outer dialogue is a simple conversation between two characters, used in almost all types of fictional works.

### 3. Examples of Dialogue in Literature

Example #1: *Wuthering Heights* (by Emily Bronte)

*“Now he is here,” I exclaimed. “For Heaven’s sake, hurry down! Do be quick; and stay among the trees till he is fairly in.”*

*“I must go, Cathy,” said Heathcliff, seeking to extricate himself from his companion’s arms. “I won’t stray five yards from your window...”*

*“For one hour,” he pleaded earnestly.*

*“Not for one minute,” she replied.*

*“I must-Linton will be up immediately,” persisted the intruder.*

Miss Bronte has employed surprises, opposition, and reversals in this dialogue like *will-it-happen*, when he says, *“But, if I live, I’ll see you ...”* She has inserted these expressions in order to develop conflict in the plot.

Example #2: *Pride and Prejudice* (by Jane Austen)

*“Oh! Single, my dear, to be sure! A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!”*

*“How so? How can it affect them?”*

*“My dear Mr. Bennet,” replied his wife, “how can you be so tiresome! You must know that I am thinking of his marrying one of them.”*

*“My dear, you flatter me. I certainly have had my share of beauty, but I do not pretend to be anything extraordinary now...she ought to give over thinking of her own beauty.”*

Austen explores the characters in her novels through dialogue. Likewise, in this conversation, the author unfolds Mrs. Bennet’s character as being stupid and worthless. Mr. Bennet makes fun of her wife, and this dialogue sums up their relationship and gives hints about their personalities.

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## Exaggeration

### 1. Definition

We all exaggerate. Sometimes by spicing up stories to make them more fun, or simply to highlight our points. Exaggeration is a statement that makes something worse, or better, than it really is. In literature and oral communication, writers and speakers use exaggeration as a literary technique, to give extra stress and drama in a work or speech.

### 2. Everyday Examples of Exaggeration

- This bicycle is a thousand years old.
- He snores louder than a cargo train.
- My dog only has cat friends.
- He is drowning in his tears.
- His brain is the size of a pea.

### 3. Types of Exaggeration

#### Overstatement

It is a statement that slightly exaggerates something to convey the meaning. Cole Porter’s poem *You’re the Top* provides a good example:

*“You’re the Nile,  
You’re the Tower of Pisa,  
You’re the smile  
Of the Mona Lisa...”*

Here, the poet overstates the actual truth and calls his beloved the river Nile, and the tower of Pisa. He also says that her smile like that of the Mona Lisa.

#### Hyperbole

Hyperbole is an extreme, extravagant, and impossible exaggeration, such as when Flannery O’Connor writes in his essay, *Parker’s Back*:

*“And the skin on her face was thin and drawn tight like the skin on an onion and her eyes were gray and sharp like the points of two ice picks.”*

## 4. Examples of Exaggeration in Literature

### Example #1: A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift

Jonathan Swift has been notorious for employing exaggeration in his writings, to provide social and political commentary. Through his peculiar story, *A Modest Proposal*, Swift elevates the politics of society to an extent of barefaced absurdity. In this essay, Swift exaggerates by suggesting that the only way to save Ireland from poverty and overpopulation is to kill the children of the poor families. He further suggests that their meat would serve as a delicacy for the nobles of Ireland. He continues to exaggerate, considering ways and recipes to make their skin into handbags and gloves by saying:

*“Those who are more thrifty may flay the carcass, the skin of which, artificially dressed, will make admirable gloves for ladies and summer boots for fine gentleman.”*

In fact, Swift exaggerates tenaciously this idea because the people of Ireland have failed to find a logical solution to reduce poverty and overpopulation.

### Example #2: Candida by Voltaire

*“I have wanted to kill myself a hundred times, but somehow I am still in love with life. This ridiculous weakness is perhaps one of our more stupid melancholy propensities, for is there anything more stupid than to be eager to go on carrying a burden which one would gladly throw away, to loathe one’s very being and yet to hold it fast, to fondle the snake that devours us until it has eaten our hearts away?”*

In this example, an old woman tells her story – how she faced hard times, exaggerating that she wanted to kill herself a hundred times, calling herself a burden.

## 5. Function of Exaggeration

The function of any type of exaggeration, whether it is overstatement or hyperbole, is to lay emphasis and stress on the given idea, action, feature, or feeling by overstating it. Through exaggeration, writers describe an action or a feature in a remarkable and heightened manner. Sometimes, they also use it sarcastically and ironically to bring humor to their works. In poetry, on the other hand, poets use it by adding images, similes and metaphors.

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## Foreshadowing

### 1. Definition

Foreshadowing is a literary device in which a writer gives an advance hint of what is to come later in the story. Foreshadowing often appears at the beginning of a story, or a chapter, and helps the reader develop expectations about the coming events in a story. There are various ways to create foreshadowing.

A writer may use character dialogues to hint at what may occur in the future. In addition, any event or action in the story may throw a hint to the readers about future events or actions. Even a title of a work or a chapter title can act as a clue that suggests what is going to happen. Foreshadowing in fiction creates an atmosphere of suspense in a story, so that the readers are interested to know more.

## 2. Short Examples of Foreshadowing

- The final graveyard flower is blooming, and its smell drifts through their house, speaking gently the names of their dead.  
(Foreshadows death)
- The evening was still. Suddenly, a cool breeze started blowing and made a windy night.  
(Foreshadows thunderstorm)
- The most awful thing happened on a stormy evening,  
The battle between good and evil started.  
(Foreshadows danger)
- Mary pulled back the curtains and saw some magpies sitting on the wall.  
(Foreshadows gossip)
- They thought there would not be more bodies; however, they could not believe the thought.  
(Foreshadows murder)
- An old man opens his drawer to find a magnifying glass, and sees a revolver.  
(Foreshadows warning)
- In the middle of the night, the father hears the back door opening. He rushes to check on his kids, but a masked intruder is blocking the way with a knife.  
(Foreshadows threat)
- Rainbow sparks,  
With shining lights.  
(Foreshadows optimism)
- Inhale fresh air, exhale bad breath.  
(Foreshadows new ideas)
- From the window, the gusts look so furious, the roofs of high buildings are stripped off, and the trees are torn up in the city.  
(Foreshadows someone's angst)
- Michael sees his own face under Donovan's mask.  
(Foreshadows Donovan is his father)
- They have made up their minds to remove an evil eye forever.  
(Foreshadows harm to an evil character)
- I observed devices,  
The symbols in the books  
To indicate the written future.  
(Foreshadows writer)

- As the twilight colors blush  
The eyes of the night arouse.  
(Foreshadows night)
- The same old thinking and the same old results.  
(Foreshadows change)

### 3. Foreshadowing Examples in Literature

Example #1: Romeo and Juliet by Robert Francis

*“Life were better ended by their hate,  
Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.”*

In the balcony scene, Juliet is concerned about Romeo’s safety as she fears her kinsmen may catch him. Romeo says, in the above lines, that he would rather have her love and die sooner, than not obtain her love and die later. Eventually, he gets her love and dies for her love, too.

Example #2: Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

*“Stormy and wet, stormy and wet; mud, mud, mud, deep in all the streets. Day after day, a vast heavy veil had been driving over London from the East, and it drove still, as if in the East there were an Eternity of cloud and wind. So furious had been the gusts, that high buildings in town had had the lead stripped off their roofs; and in the country, trees had been torn up, and sails of windmills carried away; and gloomy accounts had come in from the coast, of shipwreck and death. Violent blasts of rain had accompanied these rages of wind, and the day just closed as I sat down to read had been the worst of all.”*

The above lines are Pip’s observation on the weather before Magwitch’s arrival. It is a foreshadowing as well as a representation of Pip’s inner chaos. Just as the angry winds leave a trail of destruction in London, Magwitch’s disclosure opens a path of destruction in Pip’s life.

### 4. Function of Foreshadowing

Generally, the function of foreshadowing is to build anticipation in the minds of readers about what might happen next, thus adding dramatic tension to a story. It is deliberately employed to create suspense in mystery novels, usually by giving false clues – or red herrings – to distract readers. Moreover, foreshadowing can make extraordinary and bizarre events appear credible, as the events are predicted beforehand so that readers are mentally prepared for them.

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## Illusion

### 1. Definition

An illusion is a false illustration of something, a deceptive impression, or a false belief. Literally speaking, an illusion is something that is false and not factual. It tricks the human brain into thinking an unreal into a real. In other words, it is meant to mislead the perception of readers, and deceive their senses. Writers deceive readers’ sense of sight, touch, taste, and sounds, making them imagine what is happening, by illustrating certain details. Read on to learn more about *illusion* in literature.

## 2. Examples of Illusion in Literature

### Example #1: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

One example of illusion appearing as reality in the novel, *The Great Gatsby*, involves the protagonist, Jay Gatsby, and his meager family background. The reality is that he has lived a poor life to such an extent that he decides to drop out of college after just a couple of weeks. He hates the janitorial job he has taken to pay his tuition and fees for school. Then, in chapter four, Gatsby describes to Nick,

*"I'll tell you God's truth. ...I am the son of some wealthy people in the middle-west – all dead now."*

Here Gatsby portrays a false reality of his family background, which is an illusion.

### Example #2: A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

*"If we shadows have offended*

*Think but this, and all is mended -*

*That you have but slumbered here...*

*No more yielding than a dream."*

In these lines from his monologue, Puck alludes to a contrast between reality (the real world) and illusion (theater). He offers commentary on the theater as a fantasy and dream, where sometimes real life events become dreams and fantasy.

## 3. Function

Illusion is a delusion of real sensation. Writers use it to present something they have perceived in their minds differently from the reality. Its function is to surprise, and to provide something interesting to entertain their audiences. It also helps the audience develop emotions within a contextual framework, encouraging exploration of something different from reality. In addition, it serves as a clue, and helps the audience figure out where the scene or plot is going. The use of illusion is very common in literature, advertising, and architecture.

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## Imagery

### 1. Definition

Imagery means to use figurative language to represent objects, actions, and ideas in such a way that it appeals to our physical senses.

Usually it is thought that imagery makes use of particular words that create visual representation of ideas in our minds. The word "imagery" is associated with mental pictures. However, this idea is but partially correct. Imagery, to be realistic, turns out to be more complex than just a picture. Read the following examples of imagery carefully:

- *It was dark and dim in the forest.*  
The words "dark" and "dim" are visual images.
- *The children were screaming and shouting in the fields.*  
"Screaming" and "shouting" appeal to our sense of hearing, or auditory sense.
- *He whiffed the aroma of brewed coffee.*  
"Whiff" and "aroma" evoke our sense of smell, or olfactory sense.
- *The girl ran her hands on a soft satin fabric.*  
The idea of "soft" in this example appeals to our sense of touch, or tactile sense.

- The fresh and juicy orange is very cold and sweet.  
“Juicy” and “sweet” – when associated with oranges – have an effect on our sense of taste, or gustatory sense.

Imagery needs the aid of figures of speech like simile, metaphor, personification, and onomatopoeia, in order to appeal to the bodily senses. Let us analyze how famous poets and writers use imagery in literature.

## 2. Short Examples of Imagery

- The old man took the handful of dust, and sifted it through his fingers.
- The starry night sky looked so beautiful that it begged him to linger, but he reluctantly left for home.
- The fragrance of spring flowers made her joyful.
- The sound of a drum in the distance attracted him.
- The people traveled long distances to watch the sunset in the north.
- The stone fell with a splash in the lake.
- The sound of bat hitting the ball was pleasing to his ear.
- The chirping of birds heralded spring.
- There lay refuse heaps on their path that were so smelly that it maddened them.
- The silence in the room was unnerving.
- The blind man touched the tree to learn if its skin was smooth or rough.
- When he was on the way to work, he heard the muffled cry of a woman.
- The beacons of moonlight bathed the room in ethereal light.
- The wild gusts of cold wind pierced her body.
- The burger, aromatic with spices, made his mouth water in anticipation of the first bite.

## 3. Imagery Examples in Literature

Example #1: Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

*“O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!*

*It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night*

*Like a rich jewel in an Ethiope’s ear...”*

Romeo praises Juliet by saying that she appears more radiant than the brightly lit torches in the hall. He says that at night her face glows like a bright jewel shining against the dark skin of an African. Through the contrasting images of light and dark, Romeo portrays Juliet’s beauty.

Example #2: To Autumn by John Keats

*“Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;*

*And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;*

*Hedge-crickets sing; and now the treble soft*

*The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,*

*And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.”*

The animal sounds in the above excerpt keep appealing to our sense of hearing. We hear the lamb bleating and the crickets chirping. We hear the whistles of the redbreast robin and the twitters of swallows in the skies. Keats call these sounds the song of autumn.

## 4. Function of Imagery

The function of imagery in literature is to generate a vibrant and graphic presentation of a scene that appeals to as many of the reader’s senses as possible. It aids the reader’s imagination to envision the

characters and scenes in the literary piece clearly. Apart from the above-mentioned function, images drawn by using figures of speech like metaphor, simile, personification, and onomatopoeia, serve the function of beautifying a piece of literature.

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## Irony

### 1. Definition

Irony is a figure of speech in which words are used in such a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning of the words. It may also be a situation that ends up in quite a different way than what is generally anticipated. In simple words, it is a difference between appearance and reality.

### 2. Types of Irony

On the grounds of the above definition, we distinguish two basic types of irony: (1) verbal irony, and (2) situational irony. Verbal irony involves what one does not mean. For example, when in response to a foolish idea, we say, "What a great idea!" This is verbal irony. Situational irony occurs when, for instance, a man is chuckling at the misfortune of another, even when the same misfortune is, unbeknownst to him, befalling him.

### 3. Difference Between Dramatic Irony and Situational Irony

Dramatic irony is frequently employed by writers in their works. In situational irony, both the characters and the audience are fully unaware of the implications of the real situation. In dramatic irony, the characters are oblivious of the situation, but the audience is not. For example, in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, we know well before the characters that they are going to die. In real life circumstances, irony may be comical, bitter, or sometimes unbearably offensive.

### 4. Examples of Irony in Literature

Example #1: *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

*"Go ask his name: if he be married.  
My grave is like to be my wedding bed."*

Juliet commands her nurse to find out who Romeo was, and says if he were married, then her wedding bed would be her grave. It is a verbal irony because the audience knows that she is going to die on her wedding bed.

Example #2: *Oedipus Rex*, by Sophocles

*"Upon the murderer I invoke this curse – whether he is one man and all unknown,  
Or one of many – may he wear out his life in misery to miserable doom!"*

The above lines are an illustration of verbal and dramatic irony. It was predicted that a man guilty of killing his father and marrying his own mother brought a curse on the city and its people. In the above-mentioned lines, Oedipus curses the man who is the cause of the curse. He is ignorant of the fact that he himself is that man, and thus he is cursing himself. The audience, on the other hand, knows the situation.

Example #3: *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Coleridge

*"Water, water, everywhere,  
And all the boards did shrink;*

*Water, water, everywhere,  
Nor any drop to drink."*

In the above-stated lines, the ship – blown by the south wind – is stranded in the uncharted sea. Ironically, there is water everywhere, but they do not have a single drop of drinkable water.

## 5. Function of Irony

Like all other figures of speech, irony brings about some added meanings to a situation. Ironical statements and situations in literature develop readers' interest. It makes a work of literature more intriguing, and forces the readers to use their imaginations to comprehend the underlying meanings of the texts. Moreover, real life is full of ironical expressions and situations. Therefore, the use of irony brings a work of literature to the life.

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## Mood

### 1. Definition

In literature, mood is a literary element that evokes certain feelings or vibes in readers through words and descriptions.

Usually, mood is referred to as the *atmosphere* of a literary piece, as it creates an emotional setting that surrounds the readers. Mood is developed in a literary piece through various methods, including setting, theme, tone, and diction. Let us see how writers use the aforementioned elements in their literary works to create a particular mood.

### 2. Creating Mood Through Setting

Setting is the physical location in a piece of literature that provides background in which the events of the narrative take place. A particular setting not only provides support to the contents of the story, but also sets the mood of the readers. Let us analyze a few examples of mood developed using a setting.

Example #1: *Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens

*"The river, reflecting the clear blue of the sky, glistened and sparkled as it flowed noiselessly on."*

The depiction of idyllic scenery imparts a serene and non-violent mood to the readers.

Example #2: *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

Emily Bronte, in *Wuthering Heights*, creates two contrasting moods through two contrasting settings. The events of the narrative takes place in two neighboring houses: Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange. A depressing mood is created whenever Wuthering Heights is described. For example, in chapter 12 the narrator says:

*"There was no moon, and everything beneath lay in misty darkness: not a light gleamed from any house, far or near all had been extinguished long ago: and those at Wuthering Heights were never visible..."*

On the contrary, the description of Thrushcross Grange creates a calm and peaceful mood:

*"Gimmerton chapel bells were still ringing; and the full, mellow flow of the back in the valley came soothingly on the ear. It was a sweet substitute for the yet absent murmur of the summer foliage, which drowned that music about the Grange when the trees were in leaf."*

The contrast presented in the settings also helps in the development of the different characters. The people from Wuthering Heights are unsophisticated, while those from Thrushcross Grange are refined.

### 3. Creating Mood Through Tone

The manner in which a writer approaches this theme and subject is called the tone. The readers always rely on the writer's point of view of the events taking place in a story. They observe the story through his eyes. They feel the way the writer feels about the events taking place and the description provided. Therefore, the attitude of the writer evokes feelings and emotions in the readers.

Example #1: *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost

For instance, see how Robert Frost, in his poem *The Road Not Taken*, creates a gloomy feeling through his tone:

*"I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference."*

Frost informs us about his past with a "sigh" that gives the above lines an unhappy tone and thus evokes an unhappy mood. An unhappy mood is created because the poet convinces us that he regrets a choice he made in the past.

### 4. Creating Mood Through Diction

Diction is the choice of words a writer uses. Diction or choice of words conveys deep feelings, and depicts the events, places, and characters in a literary work in specific colors, having an effect on the way the readers feel about them.

Example #1: *Gulliver's Travel* by Jonathan Swift

*"And being no stranger to the art of war, I have him a description of cannons, culverins, muskets, carabines, pistols, bullets, powder, swords, bayonets, battles, sieges, retreats, attacks, undermines, countermines, bombardments, sea-fights..."*

In order to create feelings of disgust in readers, for the destructive consequences of war, the writer chooses words that are unmelodious, harsh, and jarring. The diction in the above passage corresponds with the subject matter.

### 5. Function of Mood

Mood helps in creating an atmosphere in a literary work by means of setting, theme, diction, and tone. It evokes various emotional responses in readers, and thus ensures their emotional attachment to the literary piece they read. Once the readers are emotionally stirred, they fully comprehend the message that the writer tries to convey to them.

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# Metaphor

## 1. Definition

A Metaphor is a figure of speech that makes an implicit, implied, or hidden comparison between two things that are unrelated, but which share some common characteristics. In other words, a resemblance of two contradictory or different objects is made based on a single or some common characteristics.

In simple English, when you portray a person, place, thing, or an action as *being* something else, even though it is not *actually* that “something else,” you are speaking metaphorically. The following phrase is an example of metaphor, “My brother is the black sheep of the family,” because he is neither a sheep nor is he black. However, we can use this comparison to describe an association of a black sheep with that person. A black sheep is an unusual animal, which typically stays away from the herd, and the person being described shares similar characteristics.

However, the metaphor figure of speech is different from a simile, because we do not use “like” or “as” to develop a comparison in metaphor poems and metaphor sentences. It makes an implicit or hidden comparison and not an explicit one.

Let’s now take a look at some common examples of metaphors.

## 2. Common Speech Examples of Metaphor

Most of us think of a metaphor as a device used in songs or poems only, and that it has nothing to do with our everyday life. In fact, all of us in our routine life speak, write, and think in metaphors. We cannot avoid them. Metaphors are sometimes constructed through our common language, and they are called “conventional metaphors.”

Let’s explore a few metaphor meaning and examples such as calling a person a “night owl,” or an “early bird,” or saying “life is a journey,” are common metaphor examples which are heard and understood by most of us. Below are some more conventional metaphors we often hear in our daily lives:

- My brother was **boiling mad**. (This implies he was too angry.)
- The assignment was a **breeze**. (This implies that the assignment was not difficult.)
- It is going to be **clear skies** from now on. (This implies that clear skies are not a threat and life is going to be without hardships)
- The skies of his future began to **darken**. (Darkness is a threat; therefore, this implies that the coming times are going to be hard for him.)
- Her voice is **music to his ears**. (This implies that her voice makes him feel happy)
- He saw the **soul of dust** when passing through the dust storm.
- Chaos is **the breeding ground of order**.
- War is the **mother of all battles**.
- Her dance is a **great poem**.
- A new **road to freedom** passes through this **valley of death**.
- My conscience is my barometer.
- His white face shows his concern.
- His kisses are like roses.
- Laughter is the best medicine.
- Words are daggers when spoken in anger.
- His words are pearls of wisdom.

### 3. Examples of Metaphor in Literature

Metaphors are used in all types of literature, but not often to the degree they are used in poetry. This is because metaphor poem is meant to communicate complex images and feelings to readers, and metaphors often state the comparisons most emotively. Now that we know the definition of metaphor, let's take a look at some examples.

Example #1: *The Sun Rising* by John Donne

*"She's all states, and all princes, I..."*

John Donne, a metaphysical poet, was well-known for his abundant use of metaphors throughout his poetical works. In his well-known work, *The Sun Rising*, the speaker scolds the sun for waking him and his beloved. Among the most evocative metaphors in literature, he explains "She is all states, and all princes, I." This line demonstrates the speaker's belief that he and his beloved are richer than all states, kingdoms, and rulers in the entire world because of the love that they share.

Example #2: *Shall I compare Thee to a Summer's Day* by William Shakespeare

*"But thy eternal summer shall not fade..."*

William Shakespeare was the best exponent of metaphors, having made wide-ranging use of them throughout his works. *Sonnet 18*, also known as *Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day*, is an extended metaphor between the love of the speaker and the fairness of the summer season. He writes that "thy eternal summer," here taken to mean the love of the subject, "shall not fade."

Example #3: *I carry your heart with me* by E. E. Cummings

*"...and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant  
and whatever a sun will always is you..."*

Here E. E. Cummings has compared his beloved to the moon, as well as to the sun. This is another good metaphor by a modern poet.

### 4. Metaphor Meaning and Function

From the above arguments, explanations, and examples, we can easily infer the function of metaphors; both in our daily lives and in a piece of literature. Using appropriate metaphors appeals directly to the senses of listeners or readers, sharpening their imaginations to comprehend what is being communicated to them. Moreover, it gives a life-like quality to our conversations and the characters of fiction or poetry. Metaphors are also ways of thinking, offering the listeners and the readers fresh ways of examining ideas and viewing the world.

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## Monologue

### 1. Definition

Monologue comes from the Greek words *monos*, which means "alone," and *logos*, which means "speech." It is a literary device that is the speech or verbal presentation given by a single character in order to express his or her collection of thoughts and ideas aloud. Often such a character speaks directly to audience, or to another character. Monologues are found in dramatic medium like films and plays, and also in non-dramatic medium like poetry.

## 2. Types of Monologue

There are two types of monologue:

### Interior Monologue

In interior monologue, a character externalizes his thoughts, so that the audience can experience his internal thoughts. Often found in plays, movies, and novels, this technique is also called a “stream of consciousness.” Internal monologue can be broken further into two categories: direct and indirect. In a direct interior monologue, an author does not show his presence, and directly reveals his character. In an indirect interior monologue, an author appears as a commentator, guide, presenter, and selector.

### Dramatic Monologue

In this type of monologue, a character speaks to the silent listener. This type has theatrical qualities, hence, it is known as dramatic monologue, and is frequently used in poetry.

## 3. Difference Between a Monologue and a Soliloquy

Monologue and soliloquy are similar, as both are speeches presented by a single person. But a major difference between them is that, in monologue, the speaker reveals his thoughts to the audience, or to any other character; whereas in a soliloquy, the speaker expresses his thoughts to himself, and it does not involve any other characters.

## 4. Examples of Monologue in Literature

Examples #1: The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock by T. S. Eliot

*“And indeed there will be time  
To wonder, ‘Do I dare?’ and, ‘Do I dare?’  
Time to turn back and descend the stair,  
With a bald spot in the middle of my hair...  
In a minute there is time  
For decisions and revisions which a minute will reverse.”*

This entire poem is written in the form of a dramatic monologue, in which the poet is trying to explore the causes of pain and suffering of an insecure young man who is confused about whether or not he should attend a party. Eliot reveals his thoughts to the audience about how Prufrock feels that, if he goes to the party, it might disturb the entire universe.

Examples #2: Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

*“But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?  
It is the east and Juliet is the sun!  
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,  
Who is already sick and pale with grief...  
O that I were a glove upon that hand,  
That I might touch that cheek!”*

This is a famous balcony scene in which Romeo hides in the garden of the Capulet family, and waits for a glimpse of his beloved Juliet. When she comes out on the balcony, Romeo uses monologue, sharing his thoughts with the audience.

## 5. Function of Monologue

The purpose of writing in monologue is to convey an idea or viewpoint through words. However, sometimes we notice a tricky part of a writer’s expression, as the opinions of speaker and writer do

not match, because he tries to convince the audience, and may not tell the exact reality. It allows readers to move from one character to another, and to have insight into their imaginations. A monologue serves as a basic source through which writers express their emotions and thoughts.

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## Motif

### 1. Definition

Motif is an object or idea that repeats itself throughout a literary work.

### 2. Motif and Theme

In a literary work, a motif can be seen as an image, sound, action, or other figure that has a symbolic significance, and contributes toward the development of a theme. Motif and theme are linked in a literary work, but there is a difference between them. In a literary piece, a motif is a recurrent image, idea, or symbol that develops or explains a theme, while a theme is a central idea or message.

### 3. Motif and Symbol

Sometimes, examples of motif are mistakenly identified as examples of symbols. Symbols are images, ideas, sounds, or words that represent something else, and help to understand an idea or a thing. Motifs, on the other hand, are images, ideas, sounds, or words that help to explain the central idea of a literary work – the theme. Moreover, a symbol may appear once or twice in a literary work, whereas a motif is a recurring element.

### 4. Themes, Motifs and Symbols in Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*

Let us try to understand the difference between theme, motif, and symbol by analyzing a literary work. In Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*, the main plot revolves around two basic themes: the ever-present possibility of resurrection, and the necessity of sacrifice to bring about a revolution.

One of the motif examples in the novel that develops these themes is the presence of Doubles: (1) the action takes place in two cities; (2) we find two opposed doubles in the form of the female characters Lucie and Madame Defarge. We also see recurrent images of darkness in the narrative, which add to the gloomy atmosphere.

Another motif is that of imprisonment, as each and every character struggles against some kind of imprisonment. Finally, there are plenty of symbols in the narrative as well. The broken wine cask is a symbol of people's hunger; Madame Defarge knitting is a symbol of revenge, and Marquis is a character that stands for social disorder.

### 5. Examples of Motif in Literature

Example #1: *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

In Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, we find a recurring motif of incest, accompanied by incestuous desires of some characters. Laertes speaks to his sister Ophelia in a way that is sexually explicit. Hamlet's obsession with Gertrude's sexual life with Claudius has an underlying tone of incestuous desire.

There is also a motif of hatred for women that Hamlet experiences in his relationship with Gertrude and Ophelia. Hamlet expresses his disgust for women in Scene 2 of Act I, as he says:  
*“Frailty, thy name is woman.”*

Example #2: *To Kill a Mocking Bird* by Harper Lee

The central idea of the co-existence of good and evil in Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mocking Bird* is supported by several motifs. Lee strengthens the atmosphere by a motif of Gothic details, in recurrent images of gloomy and haunted settings, supernatural events, and a full moon. Another motif in the narrative is the small town life of Maycomb, which depicts goodness and pleasantness in life.

## 6. Function of Motif

Along with presenting a prevailing theme, writers include several motifs in their literary works as reinforcements. Motifs contribute in developing the major theme of a literary work, and help readers to comprehend the underlying messages that writers intend to communicate to them.

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## Onomatopoeia

### 1. Definition

Onomatopoeia, pronounced on-uh-mat-uh-**pee**-uh, is defined as a word which imitates the natural sounds of a thing. It creates a sound effect that mimics the thing described, making the description more expressive and interesting.

For instance, saying, “The gushing stream flows in the forest” is a more meaningful description than just saying, “The stream flows in the forest.” The reader is drawn to hear the sound of a “gushing stream,” which makes the expression more effective.

In addition to the sounds they represent, many onomatopoeic words have developed meanings of their own. For example, the word “whisper” not only represents the wispy or breathy sound of people talking quietly, but also describes the action of people talking quietly.

### 2. Common Examples of Onomatopoeia

- The **buzzing** bee flew away.
- The sack fell into the river with a **splash**.
- The books fell on the table with a loud **thump**.
- He looked at the **roaring**
- The **rustling** leaves kept me awake.

### 3. Groups of Onomatopoeic Words

Onomatopoeic words come in combinations, as they reflect different sounds of a single object. For example, a group of words reflecting different sounds of water are: plop, splash, gush, sprinkle, drizzle, and drip.

Similarly, words like growl, giggle, grunt, murmur, blurt, and chatter denote different kinds of human voice sounds.

Moreover, we can identify a group of words related to different sounds of wind, such as swish, swoosh, whiff, whoosh, whizz, and whisper.

#### 4. Examples of Onomatopoeia in Literature

Onomatopoeia is frequently employed in literature. We notice, in the following examples, the use of onomatopoeia gives rhythm to the texts. This makes the descriptions livelier and more interesting, appealing directly to the senses of the reader.

Below, a few Onomatopoeia examples are highlighted in bold letters:

Example #1: *Come Down, O Maid* by Alfred Lord Tennyson

*“The **moan** of doves in immemorial elms,  
And **murmuring** of innumerable bees...”*

Example #2: *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway

*“He saw nothing and heard nothing but he could feel his heart pounding and then he heard the **clack** on stone and the leaping, dropping **clicks** of a small rock falling.”*

#### 5. Function of Onomatopoeia

Generally, words are used to tell what is happening. Onomatopoeia, on the other hand, helps readers to hear the sounds of the words they reflect. Hence, the reader cannot help but enter the world created by the poet with the aid of these words. The beauty of onomatopoeic words lies in the fact that they are bound to have an effect on the readers’ senses, whether that effect is understood or not. Moreover, a simple plain expression does not have the same emphatic effect that conveys an idea powerfully to the readers. The use of onomatopoeic words helps create emphasis.

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## Protagonist

### 1. Definition

A protagonist is the central character or leading figure in poetry, narrative, novel or any other story. A protagonist is sometimes a “hero” to the audience or readers. The word originally came from the Greek language, and in Greek drama it refers to the person who led the chorus. Later on, the word started being used as a term for the first actor in order of performance.

Iago in Shakespeare’s *Othello* could be identified as the protagonist of the novel because he played a central role in all the controversies of the play. The question here would be that, even though he was a central character, was he really the lead character too? This type of indistinctness generally results in completely different interpretations of whether the said character is a protagonist or not.

### 2. Examples of Protagonists from Literature

Example #1: *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner

There are ensemble stories that do not particularly highlight either one of the characters more than the rest. For instance, Addie Bundren’s demise in the novel *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner, results in her family traveling a long way to bury her, and they all tell the story from their own perspectives, which makes them all equally important to the story. Thus, it leaves us with more than one protagonist in the same story.

## Example #2: Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Protagonist examples in many stories are not shown to be flawless. They generally undergo some change that causes a turn of events. This makes a story interesting and helps deliver a message. Sometimes, a moral weakness shows that causes the fall of the protagonist. For example, in William Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*, the protagonist experiences terrible events because of his indecisiveness, which troubles him while murdering his evil uncle. So, Hamlet's struggle in dealing with the antagonist is what precedes the story.

### 3. Function of the Protagonist

A protagonist is a very important tool to develop a story. There are different terms for a protagonist, such as hero, focal character, central character, and main character. Regardless of what title you give a protagonist, he or she remains the key ingredient in the development of the story, which is why the story revolves around him or her. More often than not the protagonist is fair and virtuous, and is always supporting the moral good. Further in the plot the protagonist may undergo some change, which will probably be the climax of the story.

Being the central element puts grave responsibilities on the shoulders of a protagonist. Since the story revolves around the protagonist, he is the one who has to work as an emotional heart of the story, helping the audience connect with it on a basic level. A well-constructed protagonist attracts the audience emotionally. It helps them relate to the joys, fears, and hopes of the character in the story.

The events occurring in a story are always viewed from the perspective of the protagonist. The audience decides whether or not a particular event is favorable in a story. A wedding is an important and positive event in *The Sound of Music* because it is a positive event for the protagonist, Maria. However, the same kind of event in the movie *While You Were Sleeping* would be unfortunate because in that case the protagonist Lucy was marrying the wrong person.

Some stories weave many characters into an ensemble story, but even in such stories there is often one character that is more important to the story than the rest. For instance, in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy there are many characters that have great significance to the story, but Frodo Baggins is the one who stands out, because everyone else's destiny rests in his hands.

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## Parenthesis

### 1. Definition

Parenthesis is a stylistic device that comes from the Greek word meaning "to place," or "alongside." Parenthesis is a qualifying or explanatory sentence, clause, or word that writers insert into a paragraph or passage. However, if they leave it out, even then it does not grammatically affect the text, which is correct without it.

Writers mark these explanatory clauses off by round or square brackets, or by commas, dashes, or little lines. As far as its purpose is concerned, this verbal unit provides extra information, interrupts the syntactic flow of words, and allows readers to pay attention to the explanation. However, the overuse of parenthesis may make sentences look ambiguous and poorly structured.

## 2. Examples of Parenthesis in Literature

Example #1: One Art by Elizabeth Bishop

*“– Even losing you (the joking voice, a gesture I love) I shan’t have lied. It’s evident the art of losing’s not too hard to master though it may look like (Write it!) like disaster.”*

Bishop uses an abrupt, excruciating parenthesis towards the end of the poem. For this, she uses brackets, for expressing understatement, and for suggesting how to cope with losses through art by using the phrase “write it.”

Example #2: The Elements of Style by William Strunk, Jr. and E. B. White)

*“It is now necessary to warn you that your concern for the reader must be pure: you must sympathize with the reader’s plight (most readers are in trouble about half the time) but never seek to know the reader’s wants. Your whole duty as a writer is to please and satisfy yourself...”*

The style guidebook provides parenthetical information several times. Here, you can see how the authors have explained the reader’s plight by giving descriptive sentence in brackets, showing how readers are in trouble.

Example #3: The Dogwood Tree: A Boyhood by John Updike

*“A little gravel alley, too small to be marked with a street sign but known in the neighbourhood as Shilling Alley, wound hazardously around our property and on down, past an untidy sequence of back buildings (chicken houses, barns out of plumb, a gun shop, a small lumber mill, a shack where a blind man lived, and the enchanted grotto of a garage whose cement floors had been waxed to the luster of ebony by oil drippings...silver water so cold it made your front teeth throb) on down to Lancaster Avenue, the main street, where the trolley cars ran.”*

Look, the author has employed a detailed descriptive parenthesis in this passage. He explains in detail a sequence of untidy back buildings, and why they give such a miserable look.

## 3. Function of Parenthesis

Parenthesis makes the statements more convincing, as it puts the readers in a right form from the very beginning where they read it as an explanation. However, its main function is to give more explanation and add emphasis, while its repeated use can cause focus and thus makes parenthetical insertions a dominant feature of a sentence.

Parenthesis also offers readers an insight into true feelings and opinions of characters and narrators, while they might tend to evade parenthetical information as unimportant. Doing this, parenthesis could leave them clueless to the actual purpose of a sentence. In addition, it often creates humorous effect by using hyperbole and understatements.

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# Personification

## 1. Definition

Personification is a figure of speech in which a thing – an idea or an animal – is given human attributes.

The non-human objects are portrayed in such a way that we feel they have the ability to act like human beings. For example, when we say, “The sky weeps,” we are giving the sky the ability to cry, which is a human quality. Thus, we can say that the sky has been personified in the given sentence. With the above definition of personification, let us look at some personification examples.

## 2. Common Examples of Personification

- The shadow of the moon danced on the lake.
- There was a heavy thunderstorm, the wind snorted outside, rattling my windowpanes.
- The flowers were blooming, and the bees kissed them every now and then.
- The flood raged over the entire village.
- The tread of time is so ruthless that it tramples even the kings under its feet.
- It was early morning – I met a cat yawning and stretching in the street.
- The skyscraper was so tall that it seemed to kiss the sky.
- The tree was pulled down, and the birds lamented over its dead body.
- The tall pines in the hilly area fondled the clouds.
- The long road to his home was a twisting snake, with no visible end.
- The full moon peeped through partial clouds.
- His car suffered a severe stroke in the middle of the road, and refused to move forward.
- The ship danced over the undulating waves of the ocean.
- When he sat the test, the words and the ideas fled from his mind.
- When he came out of the house of his deceased friend, everything looked to him to be weeping.

## 3. Examples of Personification in Literature

Example #1: The Green Gables Letters by L. M. Montgomery

*“I hied me away to the woods – away back into the sun-washed alleys carpeted with fallen gold and glades where the moss is green and vivid yet. The woods are getting ready to sleep – they are not yet asleep but they are disrobing and are having all sorts of little bed-time conferences and whisperings and good-nights.”*

The lack of activity in the forest has been beautifully personified as the forest getting ready to sleep, busy at bed-time chatting and wishing good-nights, all of which are human customs.

Example #2: Have You Got a Brooke in Your Little Heart by Emily Elizabeth Dickinson

*“Have you got a brook in your little heart,  
Where bashful flowers blow,  
And blushing birds go down to drink,  
And shadows tremble so?”*

The bashful flowers, blushing birds, and trembling shadows are examples of personification.

#### 4. Function of Personification

Personification is not merely a decorative device, but serves the purpose of giving deeper meanings to literary texts. It adds vividness to expressions, as we always look at the world from a human perspective. Writers and poets rely on personification to bring inanimate things to life, so that their nature and actions are understood in a better way. Because it is easier for us to relate to something that is human, or which possesses human traits, its use encourages us to develop a perspective that is new as well as creative.

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### Plot

#### 1. Definition

Plot is a literary term used to describe the events that make up a story, or the main part of a story. These events relate to each other in a pattern or a sequence. The structure of a novel depends on the organization of events in the plot of the story.

Plot is known as the foundation of a novel or story, around which the characters and settings are built. It is meant to organize information and events in a logical manner. When writing the plot of a piece of literature, the author has to be careful that it does not dominate the other parts of the story.

#### 2. Primary Elements in a Plot

There are five main elements in a plot.

##### A. Exposition or Introduction

This is the beginning of the story, where characters and setting are established. The conflict or main problem is introduced as well.

##### B. Rising Action

Rising action which occurs when a series of events build up to the conflict. The main characters are established by the time the rising action of a plot occurs, and at the same time, events begin to get complicated. It is during this part of a story that excitement, tension, or crisis is encountered.

##### C. Climax

In the climax, or the main point of the plot, there is a turning point of the story. This is meant to be the moment of highest interest and emotion, leaving the reader wondering what is going to happen next.

##### D. Falling Action

Falling action, or the winding up of the story, occurs when events and complications begin to resolve. The result of the actions of the main characters are put forward.

##### E. Resolution

Resolution, or the conclusion, is the end of a story, which may occur with either a happy or a tragic ending.

### 3. Examples of Plot in Literature

#### Example #1: *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

A very good plot example in romantic fiction appears in the book *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. The plot of the story begins when Lizzie's sister, Jane, falls in love with Darcy's friend named Mr. Bingley. Lizzie develops an interest in Mr. Wickham, who accuses Darcy of destroying him financially.

When Lizzie goes to meet her friend, she runs into Mr. Darcy, who proposes, and Lizzie rejects. She then writes him a letter telling him why she dislikes him. He writes back, clearing up all misunderstandings and accusations. Jane runs away with Mr. Wickham, and Lizzie realizes that Mr. Darcy is not as bad a man as she had thought him to be.

#### Example #2: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J. K. Rowling

Among the examples of plot in modern literature, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* is probably the most familiar to both readers and moviegoers. The plot of the story begins when Harry learns that Professor Snape is after the Sorcerer's Stone. The Professor lets loose a troll, who nearly kills Harry and his friends. In addition, Harry finds out that Hagrid let out the secret of the giant dog to a stranger in return for a dragon, which means that Snape can now reach the Sorcerer's Stone.

### 4. Function of Plot

A plot is one of the most important parts of a story, and has many different purposes. Firstly, the plot focuses attention on the important characters and their roles in the story. It motivates the characters to affect the story, and connects the events in an orderly manner. The plot creates a desire for the reader to go on reading by absorbing them in the middle of the story, ensuring they want to know what happens next.

The plot leads to the climax, but by gradually releasing the story in order to maintain readers' interest. During the plot of a book, a reader gets emotionally involved, connecting with the book, not allowing himself to put the book down. Eventually, the plot reveals the entire story, giving the reader a sense of completion that he has finished the story and reached a conclusion.

The plot is what forms a memory in readers' minds, allowing them to think about the book and even making them want to read it again. By identifying and understanding the plot, the reader is able to understand the message being conveyed by the author, and the explicit or implicit moral of the story.

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## Repetition

### 1. Definition

Repetition is a literary device that repeats the same words or phrases a few times to make an idea clearer and more memorable. There are several types of repetition commonly used in both prose and poetry.

As a rhetorical device, it could be a word, a phrase, or a full sentence, or a poetical line repeated to emphasize its significance in the entire text. Repetition is not distinguished solely as a figure of speech, but more as a rhetorical device.

## 2. Types of Repetition

The following examples of repetition are classified according to the different types of repetition used, both in literature and in daily conversations.

- **Anadiplosis:** Repetition of the last word in a line or clause.
- **Anaphora:** Repetition of words at the start of clauses or verses.
- **Antistasis:** Repetition of words or phrases in opposite sense.
- **Diacope:** Repetition of words broken by some other words.
- **Epanalepsis:** Repetition of the same words at the beginning and the end of a sentence.
- **Epimone:** Repetition of a phrase (usually a question) to stress a point.
- **Epiphora:** Repetition of the same word at the end of each clause.
- **Gradatio:** A construction in poetry wherein the last word of one clause becomes the first of the next, and so on.
- **Negative-Positive Restatement:** Repetition of an idea first in negative terms, and then in positive terms.
- **Polyptoton:** Repetition of words of the same root, with different endings.
- **Symploce:** A combination of anaphora and epiphora, in which repetition is both at the end and at the beginning.

## 3. Examples of Repetition in Literature

Example #1: One Art by Elizabeth Bishop

*“The art of losing isn’t hard to master;  
so many things seemed filled with the intent  
to be lost that their loss is no disaster...  
Lose something every day. Accept the fluster  
of lost door keys, the hour badly spent.  
The art of losing isn’t hard to master  
though it may look like (Write it!) like disaster.”*

In this example, the poet has repeatedly used the refraining line “The art of losing isn’t hard to master” throughout the poem. This refraining line creates rhythm, and emphasizes the idea. Notice that this line, however, varies slightly in the final stanza, yet is still considered to be a refrain.

Example #2: Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night by Dylan Thomas

*“Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light...”*

*And you, my father, there on the sad height,  
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.  
Do not go gentle into that good night.  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.”*

This is very a famous poem using repetitions of the refrain, “Do not go gentle into that good night,” and “Rage, rage against the dying of the light.” These refrains make the poem catchy and easy to remember.

## 4. Function of Repetition

Refrain is purely a poetic device, and the most important function that a refrain may serve in poetry is to lay emphasis and create rhythm. When a line or phrase recurs in a poem, or a piece of

literature, it becomes noticeable to the readers. By using refrain, poets can make their ideas memorable, and draw the attention of readers toward a certain idea. This is done by using a single line recurrently throughout a poetic work, allowing readers to take a pause each time they come upon such repetition.

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## Rhyme

### 1. Definition

A rhyme is a repetition of similar sounding words, occurring at the end of lines in poems or songs. A rhyme is a tool utilizing repeating patterns that bring rhythm or musicality to poems. This differentiates them from prose, which is plain. A rhyme is employed for the specific purpose of rendering a pleasing effect to a poem, which makes its recital an enjoyable experience. Moreover, it offers itself as a mnemonic device, smoothing the progress of memorization.

For instance, all nursery rhymes contain rhyming words in order to facilitate learning for children, as they enjoy reading them, and the presence of repetitive patterns enables them to memorize them effortlessly. We do not seem to forget the nursery rhymes we learned as children. Below are a few nursery rhyme examples with rhyming words in bold and italics:

*“Humpty Dumpty sat on a **wall**,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great **fall**.  
All the King’s horses, and all the King’s **men**  
Couldn’t put Humpty together **again!**”*

*“Mary had a little lamb its fleece was white as **snow**;  
And everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to **go**.”*

### 2. Function of Rhyme

- It gives poetry a typical symmetry that differentiates poetry from prose.
  - It makes recital of poetry a pleasurable experience for the readers, as the repetitive patterns render musicality and rhythm to it.
- 

## Setting

### 1. Definition

Setting is an environment or surrounding in which an event or story takes place. It may provide particular information about placement and timing, such as New York, America, in the year 1820. Setting could be simply descriptive, like a lonely cottage on a mountain. Social conditions, historical time, geographical locations, weather, immediate surroundings, and timing are all different aspects of setting.

There are three major components to setting: social environment, place, and time. Moreover, setting could be an actual region, or a city made larger than life, as James Joyce characterizes Dublin in *Ulysses*. Or, it could be a work of the author’s imagination, such as Vladimir Nabokov’s imaginative place, space-time continuum in *Invitation of a Beheading*.

## 2. Types of Setting

There are two main types of setting:

### Backdrop Setting

Backdrop setting emerges when it is not important for a story, and it could happen in any setting. For instance, A. A. Milne's story *Winnie-the-Pooh* could take place in any type of setting.

### Integral Setting

It is when the place and time influences the theme, character, and action of a story. This type of setting controls the characters. By confining a certain character to a particular setting, the writer defines the character. Beatrix Potter's short story *The Tail of Peter Rabbit* is an example of integral setting, in which the behavior of Peter becomes an integral part of the setting. Another good example of this type of setting can be seen in E. B. White's novel *Charlotte's Web*.

## 3. Examples of Setting in Literature

### Example #1: *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

In Emily Bronte's novel *Wuthering Heights*, its setting plays a vital role, as it reflects the mood of major characters and their actions, while contributing to its overall atmosphere. The novel has three main settings:

- The Moors
- Wuthering Heights
- Thrushcross Grange

The Moors symbolize wilderness and freedom, as nobody owns them, and everyone can freely move about anytime. *Wuthering Heights* depicts weather around this house, which is stormy and gloomy. The characters are cruel and extremely passionate. Thrushcross Grange, on the other hand, is contrary to *Wuthering Heights* because its weather is calm, while its inhabitants are dull and weak.

### Example #2: *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

In William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies*, weather plays a very important role, as it represents mood, behavior, and attitudes of young boys throughout the storyline. During the day, the beach looks bright, while the ocean is calm, and there is no conflict. The author describes the dense areas of the jungle as scary and dark. One night, when Simon is killed, there comes a violent storm, and the ocean looks very rough in the black night. Thus, its setting includes weather conditions, and the ocean representing dark forces of nature present in human nature.

## 4. Function of Setting

The function of setting in a fictional, poetic, and prose work is of great importance. It has immense effect on plots and characters, as it could act as an antagonist, post a conflict that characters need to resolve, or shed light upon characters. It can also present symbolic persons, objects, place, action, or situations. Setting can establish the mood or atmosphere of a scene or story, and develop the plot into a more realistic form, resulting in more convincing characters. By establishing mood, setting also helps the audience relate themselves to the characters in a story.

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# Simile

## 1. Definition

A simile is a figure of speech that makes a comparison, showing similarities between two different things. Unlike a metaphor, a simile draws resemblance with the help of the words “like” or “as.” Therefore, it is a direct comparison.

We can find simile examples in our daily speech. We often hear comments like, “John is as slow as a snail.” Snails are notorious for their slow pace, and here the slowness of John is compared to that of a snail. The use of “as” in the example helps to draw the resemblance. Now we know the definition of simile, let’s look at some examples of common similes.

## 2. Short Examples of Similes in a Sentence

- The glow of the tube-light was as bright as the sunshine.
- In winter, when it rained, he climbed into bed and felt as snug as a bug in a rug.
- At exam time, the high school student was as busy as a bee.
- The beggar on the road looked as blind as a bat.
- When the examination finished, the candidate felt as light as a feather.
- When the teacher entered the class, the 6th-grade students were fighting like cats and dogs.
- The diplomat said the friendship of the two countries was as deep as an ocean.
- The desert traveler’s hopes were dashed, as when at last he reached a well, it was as dry as a bone.
- His opponent was trying to infuriate him, but he remained as cool as cucumber.
- The laborer remained busy at work all day long and slept like a log that night.
- The audience listened to his spellbinding speech as quietly as mice.
- The young athlete looked as strong as an ox.
- The student moved as fast as lightning after getting permission from the teacher for an early release.
- The history paper was as tricky as a labyrinth.
- The boys in the playing field were feeling as happy as dogs with two tails.

## 3. Examples of Simile in Literature

Example #1: Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad

*“I would have given anything for the power to soothe her frail soul, tormenting itself in its invincible ignorance like a small bird beating about the cruel wires of a cage.”*

In these lines from *Lord Jim*, the helplessness of the soul is being compared with a bird in a cage, beating itself against the merciless wires to be free.

Example #2: Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov

*“Elderly American ladies leaning on their canes listed toward me like towers of Pisa.”*

This simile produces a humorous effect by comparing old women leaning on walking sticks with the ancient leaning tower of Pisa.

## 4. Simile Meaning and Function

So what is a simile and its purpose? From the above discussion of simile examples, we can infer the function of similes, both in everyday life and in literature. Using similes attracts attention, and appeals directly to the senses of listeners or readers, encouraging their imaginations to understand

what is being communicated. Also, it brings rhythm, life-like quality in our daily speech and the characters of fiction or poetry.

Simile allows readers to relate the feelings of a writer or a poet to their personal experiences. Therefore, the use of similes makes it easier for readers to understand the subject matter of a literary text, which may have been otherwise too demanding to be comprehended. Like metaphors, similes also offer variety in our ways of thinking and offer new perspectives on the world.

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## Theme

### 1. Definition

Theme is defined as a main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work, which may be stated directly or indirectly.

### 2. Major and Minor Themes

Major and minor themes are two types of themes that appear in literary works. A major theme is an idea that a writer repeats in his literary work, making it the most significant idea in the work. A minor theme, on the other hand, refers to an idea that appears in a work briefly, giving way to another minor theme. Examples of theme in Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" are matrimony, love, friendship, and affection. The whole narrative revolves around the major theme of matrimony. Its minor themes are love, friendship, affectation etc.

### 3. Difference Between a Theme and a Subject

It is important not to confuse a theme of a literary work with its subject. Subject is a topic that acts as a foundation for a literary work, while a theme is an opinion expressed on the subject. For example, a writer may choose a subject of war for his story, and the theme may be his personal opinion that war is a curse for humanity. Usually, it is up to the readers to explore the theme of a literary work by analyzing characters, plot, and other literary devices.

### 4. Presentation of Themes

A writer presents themes in a literary work through several means. A writer may express a theme through the feelings of his main character about the subject he has chosen to write about. Similarly, themes are presented through thoughts and conversations of different characters. Moreover, the experiences of the main character in the course of a literary work give us an idea about its theme. Finally, the actions and events taking place in a narrative are consequential in determining its theme.

### 5. Short Examples of Theme

- When the astronaut landed on the moon, he felt loneliness. Thinking there was no one else, he became a little forlorned, though the view of Earth was stunningly beautiful.  
(Theme of lonesomeness)
- The space travelers were travelling to the moon, when their spaceship suddenly ran out of fuel. They were all frightened to learn that they wouldn't be able to return to Earth, and could only land on the moon.  
(Theme of fear)
- The bus was travelling at a great speed when it was stopped by a gang of robbers. The passengers were ordered to get out, leaving their precious belongings in the bus.  
(Theme of fear)

- Their marriage ceremony was taking place in a grand hotel. All the eminent people of the city were invited, the reason that the celebration was excellent.  
(Theme of happiness)
- As soon as the clock struck 12 at noon, the jubilations started. It travelled from East to West on the first day of the year.  
(Theme of felicitation)
- The religious leader was leading a huge congregation of followers, praying with utmost humility.  
(Theme of religiosity)
- All the family members were dressed in black, with somber faces. They were participating in the funeral ceremony of their deceased relative.  
(Theme of gloom)
- The cricket match was reaching a highpoint, the fans of both teams screaming their support. It was an excellent game.  
(Theme of cheerfulness)
- The teacher said that she hoped all of her students would pass with good grades.  
(Theme of optimism)
- The father of the slowwitted student said he had no false hopes about his son's future.  
(Theme of pessimism)
- The immigrant looked around to talk to somebody, but could find no one who spoke his language. He felt claustrophobic and desolate.  
(Theme of hopelessness)
- Only the laborers were working on Labor Day.  
(Theme of irony)
- The conference was in full swing, with scholars delivering knowledgeable lectures on varying subjects. The audience enjoyed it immensely.  
(Theme of learning)
- The politician was delivering a speech on the need for peace between two neighboring states. He said through peace they could achieve what not possible through war.  
(Theme of peace)
- The general commanded his troops to open fire at the enemy, and to kill each and every soldier of the combatants.  
(Theme of war)

## 6. Examples of Theme in Literature

### Example #1: Love and Friendship Theme

Love and friendship are frequently occurring themes in literature. They generate emotional twists and turns in a narrative, and can lead to a variety of endings: happy, sad, or bittersweet. The following are famous literary works with love and friendship themes:

- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
- *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy
- *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

## Example #2: War Theme

The theme of war has been explored in literature since ancient times. literary works utilizing this theme may either glorify or criticize the idea of war. Most recent literary works portray war as a curse for humanity, due to the suffering it inflicts. Some famous examples include:

- *Iliad and Odyssey* by Homer
- *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy
- *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell
- *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
- *Arms and the Man* by Bernard Shaw
- *A Band of Brothers: Stories from Vietnam* by Walter McDonald

## Example #3: The Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred Tennyson

*“Half a league, half a league,  
Half a league onward,  
All in the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.  
‘Forward, the Light Brigade!  
Charge for the guns!’ he said:  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.”*

This extract from a poem by Tennyson has two interwoven themes. War is the main theme of the poem, which naturally leads to death — while the theme of death is interwoven with the theme of war.

## 7. Function of Theme

Theme is an element of a story that binds together various essential elements of a narrative. It is often a truth that exhibits universality, and stands true for people of all cultures. Theme gives readers better understanding of the main character’s conflicts, experiences, discoveries, and emotions as they are derived from them. Through themes, a writer tries to give his readers an insight into how the world works, or how he or she views human life.

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