

Literary Devices

7th Grade

Sixteen devices grouped by what they do — sound, meaning, structure.

SOUND

Alliteration

Repeated opening consonant.

SOUND

Assonance

Repeated vowel sound inside words.

SOUND

Consonance

Repeated consonant sound anywhere.

SOUND

Onomatopoeia

The word imitates the noise.

SOUND

Rhyme / rhythm

Matched endings, measured beat.

MEANING

Simile

Comparison using like or as.

MEANING

Metaphor

Direct comparison — one thing is another.

MEANING

Personification

Human qualities given to non-human things.

MEANING

Hyperbole

Deliberate overstatement.

MEANING

Symbolism

An object standing in for an idea.

MEANING

Imagery

Sensory detail the reader can picture.

MEANING

Idiom

Fixed phrase with a figurative sense.

STRUCTURE

Foreshadowing

An early hint at what is coming.

STRUCTURE

Flashback

A jump backwards in time.

STRUCTURE

Irony

The opposite of what is expected.

STRUCTURE

Mood / tone

Mood = reader's feeling. Tone = writer's attitude.

Sound devices work on the ear. Meaning devices work on the picture. Structure works on the plot.