

Poetic Devices

(also classified as Literary Devices)

A poetic/literary device is a specific tool that a writer uses to say or explain something in an artistic way. Often the meanings of poetic devices are not meant literally (i.e. they don't mean specifically what they say). More often, the phrase is meant figuratively. It is possible for one phrase to be classified as more than one literary device.

Early in this course you learned what an idiom is (e.g. It's a zoo in here!). Idioms are a type of poetic device as are the following:

alliteration - when words that appear near each other in a line of writing begin with the same sound ("officially" this refers to the beginning consonant sounds —aka non-vowel sounds—but that rule isn't always applied)

examples:

hyperbole - an over-exaggerated, extravagant statement that does not mean what it literally says; used for emphasis or heightened effect

examples:

imagery - a statement that often helps the reader create a mental picture, appeals directly to one of the five senses (sight, sound, touch, taste, feel).

example:

metaphor - a statement that describes one thing by comparing it to another thing (but does NOT use the words "like" or "as" in the comparison)

examples:

onomatopoeia - words that imitate sounds

examples:

oxymoron - a figure of speech that uses two contradictory words together

examples:

paradox - a statement that seems like it contradicts itself but appears to be true (not to be confused with oxymoron, although it is a type of paradox).

examples:

personification - an inanimate object is given or described with human qualities or abilities

examples:

pun - a play on words that produces a humorous effect by using a word that suggests two or more meanings, or by exploiting similar sounding words that have different meanings

examples:

simile - a statement that describes one thing by comparing it to another; uses the word "like" or "as" in the comparison (a type of metaphor)

examples:

Poetic Device Assignment

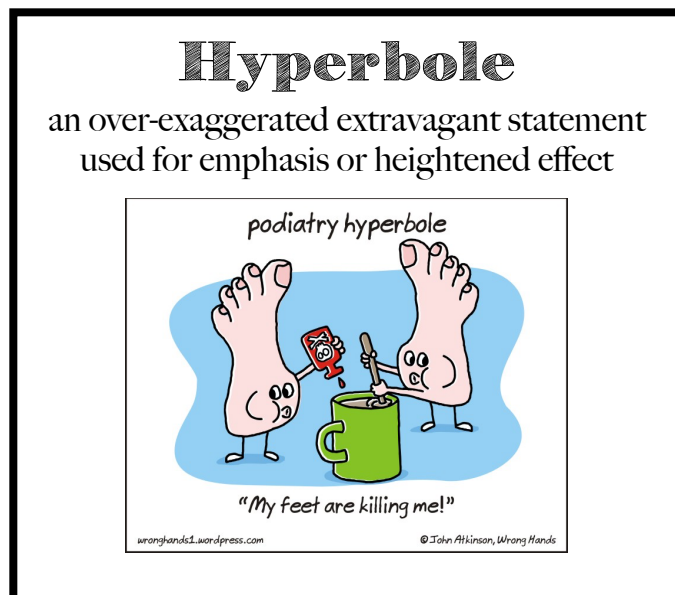
Select a minimum of **five** poetic devices included on this handout and make **one** poster (**not** five separate posters) that includes the following **for each** poetic device:

- ▶ the name of the device
- ▶ a correct definition of the device
- ▶ a sentence or phrase that uses the device within it
- ▶ a picture that relates to the sentence or phrase

Additional Criteria

- ▶ make sure your poster is logical organized
- ▶ make sure that your poster is neat and shows care in your work
- ▶ include multiple colours on your poster
- ▶ use 11" x 17" paper

partial example:



Name: _____

Poetic Device Match-up

Match each of the sentences on the right with the poetic device that is being used. (Write the letter on the blank line beside the poetic device name).

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 _____ alliteration | A Claustrophobic people are more productive thinking out of the box |
| 2 _____ hyperbole | B The buzz of the furnace is annoying me. |
| 3 _____ metaphor | C Tanya never stops talking. |
| 4 _____ onomatopoeia | D The stars danced in the sky. |
| 5 _____ oxymoron | E I reached under the desk and grabbed the gross gum. |
| 6 _____ personification | F Arguing with her was like duelling with hand grenades. |
| 7 _____ pun | G You clearly misunderstood the directions. |
| 8 _____ simile | H Eyes are the windows to the soul. |