

LITERARY DEVICES

REFERENCE CARDS

✂ Cut along the dotted lines to use as reference cards.

1 METAPHOR



A comparison made without using 'like' or 'as'.

EXAMPLE:

"All the world's a stage."

2 SIMILE



A comparison using 'like' or 'as'.

EXAMPLE:

"He was brave as a lion."

3 PERSONIFICATION



Giving human qualities to non-human things.

EXAMPLE:

"The wind whispered through the trees."

4 HYPERBOLE



Exaggerated statements not meant to be taken literally.

EXAMPLE:

"I'm so hungry I could eat a horse."

5 ALLITERATION

B B B

The repetition of the same starting consonant sounds.

EXAMPLE:

"Wild winds whistle."

6 ASSONANCE

a e i o u

The repetition of the same vowel sounds within words.

EXAMPLE:

"The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain."

7 CONSONANCE



The repetition of the same consonant sounds within words.

EXAMPLE:

"The lumpy, bumpy road."

8 ONOMATOPOEIA



A word that imitates the sound it describes.

EXAMPLE:

"The car screeched to a halt."

9 IMAGERY



Vivid language that appeals to the senses.

EXAMPLE:

"The golden sun kissed the ocean."

10 SYMBOLISM



Using symbols to represent ideas or qualities.

EXAMPLE:

"The dove is a symbol of peace."

11 IRONY



A contrast between expectation and reality.

EXAMPLE:

"It's ironic that a fire station burned down."

12 DRAMATIC IRONY



When the audience knows something characters do not.

EXAMPLE:

"The audience knows the hero is in danger, but the hero does not."

13 FORESHADOWING



Hints or clues about events that will happen later.

EXAMPLE:

"Dark clouds gathered on the horizon."

14 FLASHBACK



A scene that interrupts the present story to reveal past events.

EXAMPLE:

"He remembered the day it all began."

15 SARCASM



Using words to say the opposite, often in a mocking way.

EXAMPLE:

"Great job." (said after a mistake)

16 SYNECOCHE



Using a part to represent the whole, or vice versa.

EXAMPLE:

"All hands on deck!" (means everyone)