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List of literary devices with definitions and examples

This page contains an alphabetical glossary of literary terms and their definitions. It focuses mainly on the material I teach more frequently (classical and medieval lyrics, the history of the English language, and science fiction narratives.) Since the list is long enough, I divided it into several pages. Hunt for the term you want in alphabetical order within each web page of the letter. You can integrate this knowledge by looking into the glossary in the back of the books of literature, in dictionaries, and online more generally. Note that the entries marked with a small building barrier) (or TBA abbreviation "(to be announced) are still in the process of writing or review, so that these voices will change as shiny. [A] [B] [C] [D] [E] [F] [G] [H] [I] [J] [L] [M] [N] [O] [P] [R] [S] [T] [U] [V] [W] [X] [Y] [Z] I consulted the following works during the preparation of this list. I tried to give credit to specific sources when possible, but in many cases more reference works use the same examples or provide the same dates for common information. Students should examine these resources for more information than these humble web pages provide: Works quoted: Abrams, M. H. Glossary of the Literary Terms. 6th edition. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Pub, 1993. Norton Anthology of English Literature. 7th edition. Volume 1. New York: Norton, 2000. 2944-61. 2 Vols. Algeo, John and Thomas Pyles. The origin and development of the English language. Fifth edition. U.S.A., 2004. Anderson, Douglas. "Note on the text" in J.R.R. Tolkien, The Lord of the Rings. 50th anniversary. Houghton Mifflin, 2004. Baugh, A. C and Thomas Cable. History of English. 6th edition. Boston: Pearson Publishing, 2013. Brown, Michelle P. Understand illuminated manuscripts: A guide to technical terms. London: the British Library and the J. Paul Getty Museum, 1994. Burkert, Walter. Greek religion. 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Kip Wheeler Wheeler Permission is granted for non-profit, educational and student reproduction. Last updated April 24th, 2018. Contact: kwheeler@cn.edu Please email corrections, suggestions, or comments to help me improve this site. Click here for credits, thanks and more information on copyright. Do you need to analyze the Scarlet Letter or kill a Mockingbird for the English class, but stumble for the right vocabulary and concepts for literary devices? You came to the right place. To interpret and analyze literary texts successfully, you must first have a solid basis in literary terms and their definitions. In this article, we will help you familiarize yourself with the most commonly used literary devices in prose and poetry. We will give you a clear definition of each of the terms we discuss together with examples of literary elements and the context in which they appear more often (comic script, drama, or other). Before arriving at the list of literary devices, however, we have a quick update on which literary devices are and how understanding will help them to analyze the works of literature. What are the literary devices and why should you know? Literary devices are techniques that writers use to create a special and pointed effect in their writing, to transmit information, or to help readers understand their writing at a deeper level. Often, literary devices are used in writing for emphasis or clarity. Authors will also use literary devices to get readers to connect more strongly with a story such as an entire or specific characters or themes. So why is it important to know different devices and literary terms? In addition to helping you get good grades on your literary analysis work, there are several advantages to know the techniques that authors commonly use. Being able to identify when using different literary techniques helps you understand the motivation behind the author's choices. For example, being able to identify symbols in a story can help you understand why the author might have chosen to insert these focal points and what these might suggest in relation to his attitude towards some characters, plot points and events. In addition, being able to identify literary devices can make the general meaning of a written work or the clearest purpose for you. For example, we say that you are planning to read (or reread) lion, the Witch, and the Guard of C.S. Lewis. Knowing that this particular book is a religious allegory with references to Christ (represented by the Aslan character) and Judas (represented by Edmund), it will be clearer because Lewis uses a certain language to describe some characters and why certain events happen the way they do. Finally, literary techniques are important to know why they make the texts more interesting and more fun to read. If you were to read a novel without knowing any literary device, chances are that you would not be able to detect many of the layers of meaning interwoven in history through different techniques. Now that we went further because you should spend some time learning literary devices, let's take a look at some of the most important literary elements to know. List of literary devices: 31 Literary Terms you should know below is a list of literary devices, most of which you will find what every literary term is and give you an example of how it is used. This list of literary elements is organized in alphabetical order. Allegory A allegory is a story that is used to represent a more general message about issues and/or events of lifeIt typically is a whole book, novel, game, etc. Example: The Distopic Book of George Orwell Animal Farm is an allegory for the events that precede the Russian revolution and the Stalinist era at the beginning of the 20th century Russia. In history, animals in an animal agricultural practice, which is essentially communism. Many characters correspond to real historical figures: Old Major represents both the founder of Karl Karl communism and the Russian Communist leader Vladimir Lenin; The farmer, Mr. Jones, is the Russian Czar; The Napoleon boar stands for Joseph Stalin; And the pork snowball represents Leon Trotsky. Alteration alteration is a series of words or phrases that everyone (or almost all) start with the same sound. These sounds are typically consonant to give more stress to that syllable. You will often come on AliphTition in poetry, titles of books and poems (Jane Austen is a fan of this device, for example, for example, looks proud and injury and sense and sensitivity) and the Twti of the language. Example: "Peter Piper has chosen a keel of peppers in brine." In this tongue twister, the sound "P" is repeated at the beginning of all the main words. Allusion allusion is when an author makes an indirect reference to a figure, place, event or idea from the outside of the text. Many allusions refer to the previous works of literature or art. Example: "Stop acting so intelligent" It's not like I'm Einstein or something. "This is an allusion to the famous theoretical physique of the real life Albert Einstein. Anachronism An anachronism occurs when there is a mistake intentional in the history or timeline of a text. This could be a character that appears in a Different period of time since it actually lived, or a technology that appears before it was invented. Anachronisms are often used by comic effect. Example: a Renaissance king that says: "This is dope, Dude!" It would be an anachronism, Since this type of language is very modern and actually from the Renaissance period. Anaphora Anaphora is when a word or phrase is repeated at the beginning of more phrases throughout a piece of writing. It is used to emphasize the repeated phrase And evoking strong feelings in the public. Example: a famous example of Anaphora is Winston Churchill "We fight on the speech of the beaches". In all this speech, repeats the phrase "we fought" while it lists Remo Numerous places where the British army will continue to fight during the Second World War. He did this for Rally both troops and British people and to give them confidence that they would still have won the war. Anthropomorphism An anthropomorphism occurs when something non-human, like an animal, place or inanimated object, behaves in a human way. Example: Children's cartoons have many examples of anthropomorphism. For example, mouse and minnie mouse can talk, wear clothes, sing, dancing, drive car, etc. Real mice cannot make any of these things, but the two mouse characters behave much more likely to the humans of mice. Asyndeton Asyndeton is when the writer is jointly (like "and," "or" "but," and "for") in a group of words or phrases so that the meaning of the sentence or phrase is emphasized. It is often used for speeches since these phrases containing asyndeton can have a powerful and memorable rhythm. Example: Abraham Lincoln ends the address of Gettysburg with the phrase "... and that government of the people, by the people, because the people must not perish from the earth". Leaving some conjunctions, he finishes the speech on a more powerful melodic note. Colloquialism The colloamualism is the use of informal language and jargon. Often it is used by the authors to provide a sense of realism to their characters and dialogue. The interview forms include words, phrases and contractions that are not real words (as "skirt" and "not"). Example: "Hey, what happens, friend?" This piece of dialogue is an example of a colloquial, as it uses common daily words and phrases, namely "what happens" and "man". Epigraph an epigraph is when an author inserts a famous listing, poem, song or other short passage or text at the beginning of a text more (For example a book, a book, a chapter, etc.). An epigraph is typically written by a different author (with credit given) and used as a way to introduce global themes or messages in work. Some pieces of literature, such as the 1851 Novel Mobyl-Dick of Herman Melville, incorporate multiple multiple for all. Example: At the beginning of the book of Ernest Hemingway the sun also arises an epigraphy that consists of a quote from Gertrude Stein, which reads: "You are a lost generation" and a transition from the Bible. Epistrophe epistrophe is similar to Anaphora, but in this case, the word or repeated phrase appears at the end of the following statements. As anaphora, it is used to evoke an emotional response from the public. Example: in the speech by Lyndon B. Johnson, "the American promise", repeats the word "problem" in an use of the elaminist: "There is no negro problem, there is no problem in the south, there is a North Problem an American problem. "Hemingway, in depth of which quote to choose for its epigraphic. Eufemismo A euphemism is when a word or more mild or indirect expression is used instead of another word or phrase that is considered hard, beveled, vulgar or unpleasant. Example: "I'm so sorry, but he didn't." The phrase "did not do" is a more polite and less bumpy way to say that someone died. Flashback A flashback is an interruption in a fiction that depicts events already occurred, before the time present or before the time the narration takes place. This device is often used to give the reader more basic information and details on specific characters, events, printing points and so on. Example: most of the novels Weathering heights by Emily BrontÂ â «is a flashback from the point of view of the housekeeper, Nelly Dean, while she is committed to a conversation with a visitor named Lockwood. In this story, Nelly narrates the childhood of Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, the romanticism in the couple's grass and their tragic disappearance. Prefiguration prefiguration is when an author indirectly suggests to - through things like dialogue, description or actions of the characters "what must come later in history. This device is often used to introduce tension to a narrative. Example: To say that you are reading a fictitated account of Amelia Earhart. Before she embarked on her (what we know be unlucky) Aerial run, a friend tells her, "Be safe, I wouldn't lose yourself - or worse". This line It would be an example of prefiguration because it implies that something ugly ("or worst") will happen to eaurhart. Hyperbole hyperbole is an exaggerated statement that is not intended to literally taken from the reader. It is often used for comic effect and / or Emphasis. Example: "I am so hungry that I could eat a horse." The speaker will not literally eat an entire horse (and most likely could), but this hyperbole emphasizes how hungry he felt. Imagy Imagery is when an author describes a scene, one thing or idea so he turns to our senses (taste, smell, sight, touch or heard). This device is often used to help the reader clearly view parts of history by creating a strong mental image. Example: here is an example of images taken from the famous Poem of William Wordsworth "I wandered only like a cloud": when everything at once I saw a crowd, a series of gold daffodils; Next to the lake, under the trees, fluttering and dancing in the breeze. Irony Irony is when a statement is used to express an opposite meaning than that literally expressed by it. There are three types of irony in literature: verbal irony: when someone says something but means the opposite (similar to sarcasm). Situational irony: when something happens that is the opposite of what was expected or intended to happen. Dramatic irony: when the public is aware of the real intentions or results, while the characters are not. As a result, some actions and / or events assume different meanings for the public of what they if for the characters involved. Examples: Irony an example of this kind of irony can be found in Edgar Allan Poe "The Box of Amontillado". In this short story, a man named Montresor plans to avenge on another man named Fortunato. As their toast, Montresor Montresor"And I, Lucky." I drink to your long life. "This statement is ironic because we readers already know from this point that MontreSor plans to kill Fortunato. Situational irony: a girl wakes up to school and rushes quickly to get there. As soon as he arrives, however, he realizes that it is Saturday and there is no school. Dramatic irony: Romeo and Juliet of William Shakespeare and Juliet, Romeo commits suicide to be with Juliet; However, the public (unlike Poor Romeo) knows that Juliet is not actually dead "just asleep. Poe was a fan of irony and crows. juxtaposition juxtaposition is the comparison and contrasting of two or more different ideas, characters, characters, objects, etc. This literary device is often used to create a clearer image of the features of an object or idea by comparing it with those of another. Example: one of the most famous literary examples of juxtaposition is the opening passage from Charles Dickens' novel a story of two cities: "It was the best of the times, it was the worst of the times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of madness, it was the time of belief, it was the time of unbelief, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair â€ | " The malapressometer of malaproprision happens when a wrong word is used. This misuse of the word generally results in a statement that is both senseless and humorous; As a result, this hyperbole emphasizes how it both senseless and humorous, this device is commonly used in comic writing. Example: "I can't wait to dance the flamingo!" Here, a character accidentally called flamenco (a type of dance) the flamingo (an animal). The metaphors of metaphor/like are when ideas, actions or objects are described in non-literal terms. In short, it is when an author compares one thing on another. The two things that are described usually share something in common but are inhale in all other aspects. A similarity is a type of metaphor in which an object, an idea, character, action, etc., It is compared with another thing using the words "like" or "how". Both metaphors and similes are often used in writing for clarity or emphasis. Examples: "What light through the window layder breaks? It's east, and Juliet is the sun." In this line from Romeo and Juliet, Romeo compares Juliet to the sun. However, because Romeo does not use the words "like" or "like", it is not a similarity ... using a metaphor. "It's vicious as a lion." Since this statement uses the word "how" to make a comparison between "she" and "lion", it is a similarity. Metalomino A metalmeter is when a related word or phrase is replaced for the actual thing to which it refers. This device is usually used for poetic or rhetorical effect. Example: "The pen is more powerful than the sword." This statement, which was coined by Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839, contains two examples of metonimia: "The pen" refers to "the written word", and "the sword" refers to "military force / violence". Mood Mood is the general feeling the writer wants the audience to have. The writer can achieve this through description, setting, dialogue, and choice of words. Example: Here is a passage from the J.R.R. of Tolkien Lo Hobbit: "He had a perfectly round door like a porthole, painted green, with a knob in polished yellow brass in the exact middle The door opened on a pipe-shaped corridor, like a tunnel:. a comfortable tunnel without smoke, with walls covered with tiled and carpeted panels and floors, equipped with glossy chairs, and a lot of picks for hats and coats - the hobbit loved visitors ". In this track, Tolkien uses detailed set description to create comforting mood. From writing, you can see that the house of the hobbit is well maintained and designed to offer comfort. Onomatopoeia Onomatopoeia is a word (or group of words) that represents a sound and in reality resembles or imitates the sound it represents. It is often used for dramatic, realistic, or poetic effect. poetic.BUZZ, BOOM, CHIRP, CREAK, SIZZLE, ZOOM, etc. Oxymoron An oxymoron is a combination of two words that, together, express a contradictory meaning. This device is often used for emphasis, humour, create tensions or to illustrate a paradox (see next item for more information on paradoxes). Examples: arborating silence, organized chaos, type, madly logical, etc. Penrose stairs w a classic example of paradox. Are they going up or down?! Paradox A paradox is a statement that appears illogical or self-contradittory but, in case of investigation, it could actually be true or plausible. Note that a paradox is different from an oxymoron: a paradox is an entire sentence or phrase, while a homoro is a combination of only two words. Example: here is a famous paradoxical phrase: "This statement is false." If the statement is true, then it is not actually false (as it suggests). But if it is false, then the statement is true! So, this statement is a paradox because it is both true and false at the same time. Personification Personization is when a nonhuman figure or another abstract concept or element is described as qualities or characteristics similar to man. (Unlike anthropomorphism in which non-human figures become characters similar to human ones, with personification, the object / figure is simply described as a human being.) The personification is used to help the reader create a clearer mental image of the scene or object described. "The wind moaned, I'm nod to go out." In this example, the wind - a non-human element "was described as if it were human (it" turns "o" beckons "). The repetition of the repetition is when a word or phrase is written several times, usually for the purpose of emphasis. It is often used in poetry (for rhythm purposes). Example: When Lin-Manuel Miranda, who wrote the score for the Musical Hamilton, gave his speech to Tony 2016, recited a poem that he wrote that included the following line: And love is love is love is love is love is love is love is love that cannot be killed or swept aside. Satira Satira is a kind of writing that criticizes something, like a person, behavior, conviction, government or a society. satire often employs irony, humour and hyperbole to make its point. Example: Onion is a satirical newspaper and a digital media company. Use satire for parody the common features of news such as opinion columns, editorial cartoons and click bat titles. A kind of monologue that is often used in dramas, a soliloquium is when a character speaks loudly to himself (and to the public), thus revealing his thoughts and inner feelings. Example: at Romeo and Juliet, the speech of Giulietta on the balcony that begins with "O Romeo, Romeo! Why Art Thou Romeo?" is a soliloquio, as he is speaking out loud to himself (remember that he does not realize Romeo listening!). Symbolism Symbolism refers to the use of an object, figure, event, situation or another idea in a written work to represent something else - generally a broader message or a deeper meaning that differs from its literal meaning. The things used for symbolism are called "symbols" and often will appease multiple times throughout the text, sometimes changing in meaning while the plot progresses. Example: At F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 Novel The Great Gatsby, the green light that lies in front of Gatsby's Mansion symbolizes Gatsby's hopes and dreams. SyneCheoche is a literary device in which part of something is used to represent everything or vice versa. It is similar to a mestonym (see above); However, a metal must not represent everything ... only something associated with the wordExample: "Help me out, I need some hands!" In this case, the "hands" are used to refer to people (the whole human, essentially). Tone while the mood is what should feel the public, tone is the writer or attitude of the narrator towards a subject. A good writer always will always want the audience a a The mood they are trying to evoke, but the public is not always agreed with the tone of the narrator, especially if the narrator is a non-friendly character or has points of view that differ from those of the reader. Example: In an essay that disdain Americans and some of the sites that visit as tourists, Rudyard Kipling starts with the line, "today I am in Yellowstone's park, and I would like to be dead." If you like Yellowstone and / or national parks, you may not agree with the author's tone in this piece. It's time to become your Sherlock Holmes! How to identify and analyze literary devices: 4 tips to fully interpret the pieces of literature, you have to understand a lot about literary devices in the texts you read. Here are our best tips to identify and analyze different literary techniques: Tip 1: Read carefully first of all, you will need to make sure you are reading very carefully. Resist the temptation to skip or skip any text section. If you do, you could lose some literary devices that are used and, consequently, will not be able to accurately interpret the text. If there are passages in the work that make you feel particularly emotional, curious, intrigued, or simply simply interested, check that area again for any literary device at stake. It is also a good idea to re-read any part that you thought was confused or that you didn't understand completely on a first reading. This ensures you have a solid understanding of the passage (and text as a whole) and will be able to analyze it appropriately. Tip 2: Store the common literary terms you will not be able to identify literary elements in the texts if you don't know what they are or how they are used, then spends some time to memorize the list of literary elements. Knowing these (and how they look at themselves in writing) will allow you to easily identify these techniques in various types of written works. Tip 3: Knowing the author's intense hearing to know what kind of audience an author wanted his job to have helping to understand what types of literary devices could be at stake. For example, if you were trying to analyze a child's book, you would like to be looking for devices suitable for children, such as repetition and alert. Tip 4: Take notes and bookmarks Passages and key pages This is one of the most important tips to know, especially if you are reading and analyzing jobs for the English class. As you read, take notes at work in a notebook or on a computer. Write any steps, paragraphs, conversations, descriptions, etc., which jump out to you or contain a literary device that you have been able to identify. You can also take notes directly in the book, if possible (but don't do it if you are borrowing a book from the library!). I recommend circulating keywords and important phrases, as well as reciting interesting or particularly effective steps and paragraphs. Finally, use sticky or post-it notes for bookmark pages that are interesting for you or have a sort of remarkable literary device. This will help you get back to them later, if you need to revisit some of what you found for a newspaper that you intend to write. What is the next one? Looking for in-depth information and examples of literary devices? Join us while we immerse ourselves in images, personification, rhetorical devices, words and mood words, and different points of view in literature, as well as some more poetic specific terms such as the axonance and the iambic pentameter. Read the great gatsby for class or even for fun? Then you will surely want to check our expert guides on the themes great of this classic book, from love and relationships to money and materialism. Do you have any questions about Arthur Miller's The Crucible? Read our in-depth articles to learn about the most important themes in this game and get a complete rundown of all characters. For more information about your favorite works of literature, take a look at our collection of high-quality book guides and our guide to the 9 literary writersche appaiono in ogni storia! Vuoi migliorare il tuo punteggio SAT di 160 punti o il tuo punteggio ACT di 4 punti? Abbiamo scritto una guida per ogni test sulle 5 strategie che dovete usae per avere un Tiro al miglioramento del vostro punteggio. Scaricala free ora: