

# Literary Devices

**Music and Its Meaning, part 1**

# What is a Literary Device?

**Literary devices** are tools and techniques used by authors in poems, songs, speeches, and other forms of writing to enhance their work and express their ideas.

# What is a Literary Device?

These devices serve a wide range of purposes in literature.

Some might work on an **intellectual level**, while others have a more **emotional effect**. They may also work subtly to improve the **flow** and **pacing** of the piece of writing.

## Some famous examples of literary devices include:

- Sally sold seashells by the seashore.
- He's as blind as a bat.
- The fat cat sat on the mat.

Before we start, can you **identify** what devices are used here?

# Some famous examples of literary devices include:

- Sally sold seashells by the seashore. **ALLITERATION**
- He's as blind as a bat. **SIMILE**
- The fat cat sat on the mat. **RHYME**

Let's find out why!

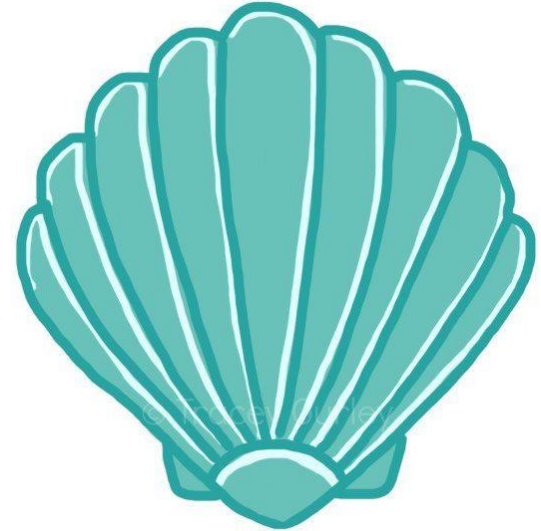
# Alliteration

## Definition:

The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

## Example:

**S**ally **s**old **s**eashells by the **s**eashore.



## Alliteration - “So Sick” by Ne-Yo



“Said I’m so sick of love songs,  
so sad and slow”

Can you identify what the **alliteration** in the song is?

## Alliteration - “So Sick” by Ne-Yo



“Said I’m so sick of love songs,  
so sad and slow”

The repetition of the “s” sound creates rhythm and focuses attention on the chorus.



Can anyone recall another  
example of alliteration?

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# Anaphora



## Definition:

When a certain word or phrase is repeated at the beginning of clauses or sentences that follow each other, emphasizing the phrase while adding rhythm to the passage.

## Example:

**It rained all** morning, **it rained all** afternoon, and **it rained all** night.

## Anaphora - “Feel” by Kendrick Lamar



“I feel like a chip on my shoulders  
I feel like I’m losin’ my focus  
I feel like I’m losin’ my patience  
I feel like my thoughts in the basement”

Can you identify the **anaphora** here?

## Anaphora - “Feel” by Kendrick Lamar



“**I feel like** a chip on my shoulders  
**I feel like** I’m losin’ my focus  
**I feel like** I’m losin’ my patience  
**I feel like** my thoughts in the basement”

The repetition of “**I feel like**” is an **anaphora**.

Break into groups and  
discuss: what is the **effect** of  
the anaphora?

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The anaphora allows for an  
*emphasis* of what he feels  
like.

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# Rhyme

## Definition:

A repetition of words with similar sounding endings.

Rhymes are the most common literary device found in song!

## Example:

The **fat** **cat** **sat** on the **mat**.



## Rhyme - “Hotline Bling” by Drake



“I know when that hotline bling  
That can only mean one thing”

What words make up the **rhyme** in these lyrics?



## Rhyme - “Hotline Bling” by Drake



“I know when that hotline **bling**  
That can only mean one **thing**”

The ‘**-ing**’ sound endings the lyrics it **rhyme!**

Talk to your group & think of  
two examples of words that  
rhyme.

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Example: “dog” and “fog”

# Simile

## Definition:

A figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing by using '**like**' or '**as**'. Similes are used to make a description more vivid and relatable.

## Example:

She was **as tall as a giraffe**.

He is sly **like a fox**.



## Simile - “Big Girls Don’t Cry” by Fergie



“And I’m gonna miss you like a child misses their blanket

But I’ve got to get a move on with my life”

Can you identify the **simile** used in these lyrics?

## Simile - “Big Girls Don’t Cry” by Fergie



“And **I’m gonna miss you like a child misses their blanket**

But I’ve got to get a move on with my life”

Fergie uses **“like”** to compare **missing a person to a child missing their blanket.**

Discuss in groups: what does it *mean* to miss someone like “a child misses their blanket”?

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Here, the artist means that she misses someone a lot, a way a child would miss their blanket a lot.

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# Metaphor

## Definition:

A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is *not literally* applicable. A metaphor is very similar to a simile, but does not use 'like' and 'as' to make a comparison.

## Example:

**You are my sunshine.**

**Her voice is music** to my ears.





# Metaphor - “Beat It” by Michael Jackson



“Don't want to see your face, you better disappear  
The fire's in their eyes and their words are really clear  
So beat it, just beat it”

What is the **metaphor** used here?

# Metaphor - “Beat It” by Michael Jackson



“Don't want to see your face, you better disappear  
The **fire's in their eyes** and their words are really clear  
So beat it, just beat it”

Obviously, there isn't an *actual* fire in their eyes, but the **metaphor** means they have a very intense look in their eyes.

Let's play a quick review game!

**Simile or Metaphor?**

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Simile or Metaphor?

He was a lone wolf.

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Metaphor! Does anyone know  
why it is *not* a simile?

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It is a metaphor because it makes a comparison without using “like” or “as.”

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Furthermore, someone can not *actually* be a lone wolf if they are not an actual wolf!

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Simile or Metaphor?

She is as busy as a bee.

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Simile! Why?

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It is a simile because the  
comparison is made using  
“as.”

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