

**Topic: Figurative Language**

**Definition:** A tool that authors use to help the reader visualize, or see, what is happening in a story or a poem.

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**Alliteration** is the repetition of the initial consonant. There should be at least two repetitions in a row.

- Example: **P**eter **P**iper **p**icked a **p**eck of **p**ickled **p**eppers.
- The first letter, “p,” is a consonant. Its sound is repeated many times.

**Hyperbole** is an intentionally exaggerated figure of speech.

- Example: There were *a million* kids at that party!

**Idioms** are an expression that means something other than the literal meanings of its individual words. Idioms are often overused expressions.

- Example: It’s a piece of cake.

**Imagery** involves one or more of the reader’s five senses – the abilities to hear, taste, touch, smell, and see. An author uses a word or phrase to stimulate the reader’s memory of those senses.

- Example: Wordsworth famously used the imagery of daffodils “fluttering and dancing in the breeze.”

**Onomatopoeia** is the imitation of natural sounds in word form. These words help readers form mental pictures, or visualize, things, people, or places that are described. Sometimes a word names a thing or action by copying the sound.

- Example: Bong! Hiss! Buzz!

**Metaphor** states that one thing *is* something else. It is a comparison, but does **NOT** use like or as to make the comparison.

- Example: Her hair is silk. (Hair and silk are being compared.)

**Personification** is giving human qualities, feelings, actions, or characteristics to inanimate (not living) objects.

- Example: The ancient car groaned into first gear.
  - The verb, groaned, is a human action; a car is a non-living thing.

**Simile** is a comparison using like or as. It usually compares two unlike objects.

- Example: His feet are as big as boats. (Feet and boats are being compared.)

**Symbolism** occurs when one thing stands for, or represents, something else.

- Example: The dove symbolizes peace.