

## Poetic Terms and Devices

One of the main features of poetry is that it uses both figurative and rhetorical devices. Figurative devices add meaning to poetry. They provide creative, powerful words, and create comparisons to give poems depth and explain complex ideas in a simple and effective way. Rhetorical devices are added to give poetry rhythm, rhyme, and meter. These devices are used to make poetry sound more musical.

### Figurative Devices:

1. **metaphor** - a direct comparison between two unlike objects. This does not use *like* or *as*.  
E.g. Her child is a monster.
2. **simile** - an indirect comparison between two unlike objects that uses *like* or *as*.  
E.g. He is as sharp as a bowling ball.
3. **hyperbole** - a deliberate exaggeration.  
E.g. The teacher gives us tonnes and tonnes of homework.
4. **symbol** - something which represents something else, often a concrete object used to represent an abstract idea or thought. There are both public

symbols (universally accepted) and private symbols (used by individual authors).

E.g. The calendar year = the life cycle. Colours: white = purity, innocence; red = anger, hate.

5. **allusion** - a reference to an object or idea that is universally known and accepted. A reference to mythology, literature, history, television, etc. in order to condense meaning.  
E.g. My favourite student, little Bart Simpson over there, didn't do his homework again.
6. **oxymoron** - words that are directly opposite to each other are used right next to another.  
E.g. Bitter sweet, jumbo shrimp.  
I have to turn left, right?
7. **personification** - giving human qualities, emotions, or actions to inanimate objects.  
E.g. The wind whispered through the trees.
8. **imagery** - using sensory details to create a vivid picture in the reader's mind.  
E.g. The watermelon fresh scent of newly cut grass in spring drifted through the green air and dangled near the bright yellow tulips.

9. **connotation** - the suggested or implied meaning of words, not the exact definition. It relies on the feelings and associations that are carried with the words.  
E.g. Horse words = nag, stallion, mare, steed, pony, foal, mount, equine.
10. **apostrophe** - directly addressing an abstract quality or an absent/non-existent person as though it were present.  
E.g. O, love, why have you left me?
11. **irony** - a difference between the words that are spoken and what is true. A difference between what is expected to happen and what actually occurs.

## Rhetorical Devices

1. **alliteration** - the repetition of consonant sounds.  
E.g. A series of similar sounds.
2. **rhyme** - similar vowel and consonant sounds at the end of words.
3. **onomatopoeia** - words that sound like they mean.  
E.g. Don't *slam* the door.

4. **repetition** - patterns, sounds and meanings are repeated to create cadence or emphasis.
5. **meter** - the number of syllables in a line of poetry and the stress that is placed on each syllable to form a beat or musical pattern.
6. **cacophony** - harsh, unpleasant sounds are used together.  
E.g. The dark truck parked by the ditch.
7. **euphony** - pleasant, melodious sounds are used in combination.  
E.g. All the sea sounds softly fell among the angelic foam.
8. **assonance** - a type of alliteration that uses vowel sounds within words to create a melodic pattern.  
E.g. Before his gleaming pen reached his seething brain.
9. **consonance** - a type of alliteration that uses consonant sounds to create melody.  
E.g. Tyger, Tyger, burning bright!