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Literary Choices

Review the figurative language terms used both in prose and poetry to create powerful meaning for the reader.

Fill in a missing term, definition, or example for each empty box below.

Term	Definition	Example
imagery	description using sensory details (sight, sound, touch, taste, smell)	She swam in a salty cold chill of blue.
metaphor	direct statement of comparison between two unlike things	Love is a bridge.
simile	using "like" or "as" in a comparison of two unlike things	Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're going to get.
personification	giving human characteristics to on-human things	Flowers danced in the wind.
pun	multiple meanings of the same word	She broke a lot of nails on her first day as a carpenter.
oxymoron	phrase with contradictory ideas	You're wrong when it's right It's black and it's white
hyperbole	exaggeration or overstatement	The dumpster has a million flies.
symbolism	concrete object represents abstract thought	Fresh green earth brings hope for the new season.
allusion	reference to literary, historical, or cultural figure	Chocolate is my Achilles heel.

Terms below relate to the sounds or musical aspects of words, called prosody.

First, highlight of any sounds you find special or repeated in the phrases below.

Then, write a definition that explains what you notice the examples. The first one has been completed for you.

Consonance The pitter-patter of little feet. Silent as the slowly falling leaves.

He thrusts his fists against the posts and still insists he sees the ghosts.

definition: repetition of consonant sounds

Alliteration The sun sizzled the swimmer's skin. Little leaping lizards lay lazily on a log.

The wild wind whistled and wailed.

definition: repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words repetition of beginning consonant sounds

Assonance Fleet feet sweep by sleeping cheeks. Over the ocean the boat will coast.

My eyes are wise. In praise of ladies in waiting.

definition: The repetition of vowel sounds

Anaphora One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind. It was the best of times,

it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness.

definition: The repetition of words or phrases in a sentence

Onomatopoeia The train chugged down the rickety track. My dog's tail thumped against the table.

Each soldier snapped to attention.

definition: The use of sounds imitation of natural sounds

The Greek root "phon" means "sound." Match the following definitions to the examples provided below:

harsh/rough/heavy metal type sounds good/soft/lullaby type sounds

Euphony She was sly when lying. Waving o'er the ocean. If you will only say the same.

definition: good/soft/lullaby type sounds

Cacophony Constant crunching and popping. Tattered church pictures.

The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!

definition: Harsh/rough/heavy metal type sounds.

The following definitions have been provided. Label or highlight (in different colors) examples in the stanzas below.

Rhyme similar sound endings

Rhythm a beat created by syllables

Punctuation/Caesura a pause within a line

Enjambment a line that runs on into the next

Lightning, thunder, all around a 7

Soon the rain falls on the ground. a 7

Life's purposes – the palate of my mind b 10

Losing its gist, and my ambition blind! b10

Death be not proud, though some have called thee a9

Mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not so, b10

For, those, whom thou think'st, thou dost overthrow, b10

Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me a10

Use this [Literary Choice Quizlet](#) to check your answers and study any terms you need to practice.