

Name: _____

Date: _____

LITERARY DEVICES

Try to come up with a memory aid to help you remember what each poetic device is. Write your memory aid below the name of the device.

Literary Device	Definition: In my own words	Example
Simile	A comparison between unlike things using “like”, “as” or “than”	“My kettle steamed like a locomotive” “His legs were like forest stumps” “Superman is faster than a speeding bullet” “The kitten purred like a motorboat”
Alliteration	The repetition of sounds at the beginning of words.	“Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.” “She sells seashells by the seashore.”
Rhyme	An exact or close similarity in sounds between words (used to tie words, lines and ideas together).	“War and tore” “Jane and rain” “Pain and gain” “Teach and bleach” “Light and fight”
Personification	Giving human qualities to animals or objects.	“The daffodils nodded their yellow heads” “The sky is crying” “The trees waved in the wind”
Onomatopoeia	The use of words to imitate the sounds that they describe.	Bang, buzz, creak, kaboom, crackle, snap, pop, woof, thud, cuckoo, stomp, clap, quack, sizzle, tweet, achoo, clicked, rumble, pow, meow, etc.
Metaphor	A comparison between two things, in which one thing is said to be another. *does NOT use “like” or “as” or “than”.	“The cat’s eyes were jewels, gleaming in the darkness” “Her eyes were saucers” “The bird’s beak was a spike, piercing worms in the garden”
Couplet	Two lines in a row, matching or rhyming.	“Nature’s first green is gold, Her hardest hue to hold.” “Twinkle, twinkle little star, How I wonder what you are.”
Hyperbole	A deliberate exaggeration, often used for effect.	“I laughed my head off” “I’m so hungry, I could eat a horse” “I dodged a bullet” “I would catch a grenade for you” “I would walk 5000 miles for you”
Foreshadowing	Words or actions in a story that hint at something that is going to happen later in the story, without revealing what will happen.	In the fairy tale, <i>Little Red Riding Hood</i> , the mother is concerned for her safety and that foreshadows the appearance of the big bad wolf.

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Imagery	The use of very descriptive language to appeal all of the senses. The reader can hear, taste, feel, see and taste the text.	<i>It was dark and dim in the forest.</i> • The words “dark” and “dim” are visual images. <i>The children were screaming and shouting in the fields.</i> • “Screaming” and “shouting” appeal to our sense of hearing. <i>He whiffed the aroma of brewed coffee.</i> • “Whiff” and “aroma” evoke our sense of smell. <i>The girl ran her hands on a soft satin fabric.</i> • The idea of “soft” in this example appeals to our sense of touch, or tactile sense. <i>The fresh and juicy orange is very sweet.</i> • “Juicy” and “sweet” – when associated with oranges – have an effect on our sense of taste.
Mood	The general feeling, emotion or atmosphere that a piece of writing creates within the reader.	Positive Mood Examples: Amused, Blissful, Calm, Cheerful, Content, Dreamy, Ecstatic, Energetic, Excited, Flirty, etc. Negative Mood Examples: Angry, Annoyed, Apathetic, Bad, Cranky, Depressed, Envious, Frustrated, Gloomy, Grumpy, etc.
Theme	The underlying message or big idea/moral in a story or piece of literature.	Good versus evil. Love conquers all. Dangers of ignorance. Power of wealth. Beauty of simplicity. Survival. Betrayal. Beliefs.