

accent

the way in which words are pronounced

Do you say 'barth' or 'bath'? 'Grarph' or 'graph'?

alliteration

the repetition of the same consonant sound at the start of words next to, or near, each other

the cold crowd welcomed the warm weather

assonance

the repetition of similar vowel sounds
in words next to, or near, each other

she fumbled with the Bunsen burner

caesura

a pause in the middle of a line of poetry usually marked by a full stop, semi-colon or colon

*The gruel of mud and leaves in the mauled lane
Smelled sweet, like blood. Birds had died or flown.*

cliché

an idea or expression which has become overused and therefore lost its original impact

Avoid it like the plague!

couplet

two lines of poetry which often rhyme or are otherwise separated in the poem's structure

*We cannot fight for love, as men may do;
We should be wooed, and were not made to woo.*

dialect

a particular version of a language with its own distinctive grammar and vocabulary

Ow am yow today, bab?

enjambment

where the sense of one line of poetry runs into the next without any pause

*Or rather do I not in plainest truth
Tell you I do not, nor I cannot love you?*

hyperbole

an exaggerated statement which
is not intended to be taken literally

My bag weighs a ton!

image

the mental picture created by the
words a writer has chosen

*the moon's silvery beams lit up the cold night air
and she heard an owl's hoot echo around her*

imagery

a general term to describe the descriptive language used by writers to create an image through *metaphor*, *simile* or *personification*

metaphor

an image used to demonstrate a less well-known, or understood, idea

*The road was a ribbon of
moonlight over the purple moor*

first person narrator

the speaker in the text telling the story
from their own perspective using
the pronouns 'I', 'me', 'we' or 'us'

*I buckled my seatbelt and waited; I knew it
wouldn't be long before we took off.*

third person narrator

the speaker in the text telling the story
about other people using the
pronouns 'he', 'she', and 'they'

*She buckled her seatbelt and
waited for the flight to take off*

omniscient narrator

the speaker in the text telling the story about other people but with complete access to the thoughts and feelings of all the characters

She buckled her seatbelt and felt a deep down uneasiness as she remembered her last flight.

onomatopoeia

a word which suggests the sound it describes

*the tap dripped and the water
splashed over the side of the cup*

oxymoron

a figure of speech in which two contradictory terms are placed close together

*Why then, O brawling love, O loving hate
O anything from nothing first create,
O heavy lightness! Serious vanity!*

personification

a type of metaphor in which human characteristics are used to describe an object or an idea

The stars danced playfully in the moonlight sky above the streets filled with sleeping houses.

rhyme

the repetition of similar sounds
in two or more words

*Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight!
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.*

rhythm

the pattern of stressed and unstressed
syllables in a piece of writing

*On the far-away island of Sala-ma-Sond,
Yertle the Turtle was king of the pond.*

simile

an image created by a direct comparison
which is usually introduced by 'like' or 'as'

*A hot wind was blowing around my head,
the strands of my hair lifting and swirling
in it, like ink spilled in water.*

soliloquy

a dramatic device in which a character gives a speech expressing their own thoughts and feelings which only they and the audience can hear

stanza

a group of lines within a poem,
like a verse in a song

syllable

a part of a word containing a single vowel sound

words can be *monosyllabic* (containing one syllable)
or *polysyllabic* (containing more than one syllable)

<i>school</i>	<i>lo-cker</i>	<i>cor-ri-dor</i>	<i>Bi-o-lo-gy</i>
<i>one syllable</i>	<i>two</i>	<i>three</i>	<i>four</i>