

alliteration

Helps writers punch points home by repeating the same sound (usually a consonant) of the first or second letter in a series of words. It tends to catch the reader's eye.

The professor praised his pupil's flowery prose.



hyperbole

When a writer exaggerates something - typically in a humorous way.

My eyes widened at the sight of the mile-high sundaes that were brought to our table.



metaphor

A comparison between two things. They don't necessarily have to be alike, but they should make a link in the reader's mind.

Nobody invites Edward to parties because he is a wet blanket.



personification

When something non-human is given human-like qualities.

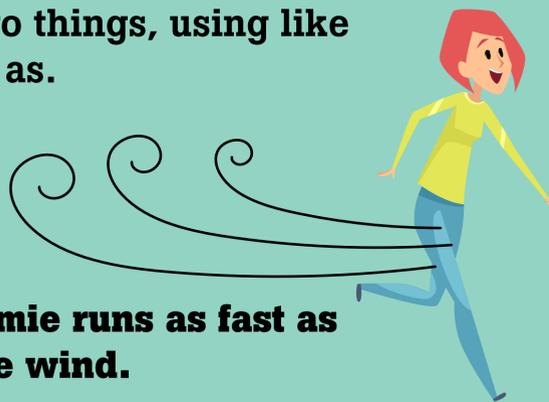


The leaves danced in the wind on the cold October afternoon.

simile

A direct comparison between two things, using like or as.

Jamie runs as fast as the wind.



symbolism

When something that has one meaning is used to represent something entirely different. For example, using an image of the American flag to represent patriotism.

The boy proudly flew his flag on the 4th of July.



assonance

When you repeat a vowel sound in a phrase.

True, I do like Sue.



cliché

A phrase that is repeated so often, it's nearly meaningless.

Try walking a mile in my shoes.



idiom

An expression used by a group of people with a meaning that can only be understood through common usage. (Many idioms are also considered clichés.)

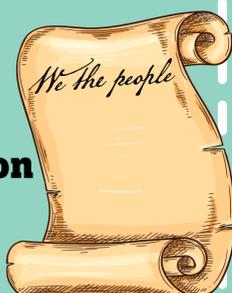
I'm waiting for him to kick the bucket.



metonymy

A figure of speech where one word is replaced with a word that's closely associated with it. For example, you might hear Washington used to refer to the U.S. government.

The political corruption in Washington is just unreal.



onomatopoeia

The name of an action imitates the sound it makes.

The bees buzz angrily when their hive is disturbed.

buzzzzzzzz



synecdoche

a figure of speech using a word or words to represent a whole. For example, when you refer to credit cards as "plastic".

Rather than using cash, she just paid with her plastic.

