

Literary elements

An Overview

There are three common figures of speech:

Simile	a direct comparison between two unlike things using 'like' or 'as' ('the sun was like a blazing ball of heat', 'her laugh sounded like a volley of gunshot').	
Metaphor	An implied comparison between two unlike things by making one become the other ('the road <u>was</u> a ribbon of moonlight', the tree <u>of</u> life')	
Personification	giving human qualities to inanimate objects or abstract ideas ('the wind howled in the night', 'the stars danced in the sky')	

And one not-so-common figure of speech:

Hyperbole	exaggeration or a statement exaggerated imaginatively, for effect; not to be taken literally. Some metaphors and similes express hyperbole: "The young student, <i>innocent as a newborn babe</i> , eagerly accepted the bet." "The sweet music <i>rose and touched the farthest star</i> ."	
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Symbolism	the use of an easily identifiable object to represent something larger than itself, usually an abstract concept; it means both what it is and something more (dove→peace, purity; heart→love; candle→hope; flag→country)	
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Sound Devices

- **Rhythm** – the rise and fall of our voices as we stress some syllables more strongly than others.
- **Rhyme** - the repetition of similar or identical sounds in the end-stressed syllables; words that sound alike. **Cat, hat, bat; float, boat.**
- **Onomatopoeia** – the use of words with sounds that echo their sense or meaning. The goal is for the word to be pronounced like the sound (**crash, bang, boom, hiss**).
- **Alliteration** – the repetition of the initial consonant sound in words that are close together. (Would you **w**ant to be a **w**inner?, **P**eter **P**iper **p**icked a **p**eck of **p**ickled **p**eppers..., **f**rench **f**ries, **d**ead **d**uck, etc.)
- **Consonance** – the consonant sounds are repeating in the middle and/or end of words near each other, not at the beginning (**tall silver tail**)
- **Assonance** – a kind of near rhyme; the repetition of the same or similar vowel sounds within words in close proximity (**feel** and **sleet**, **eye** and **hide**)