



“Literary elements are not there to add decoration or fanciness to a text -- they are there to create meaning and convey that meaning to a reader.”

--Christina Gil



ALLUSION

A reference, typically brief, to a person, place, thing, event, or other literary work with which the reader is presumably familiar

WHY?

1. To make a better connection with a reader
2. Add a layer of meaning/symbolism
3. May help with visualization



ALLUSION

Choose one and explain what meaning it might convey to the reader.

1. She smiled like the Cheshire cat.
2. I soon found out my new friend had the Midas touch.
3. She turned the other cheek after she was cheated out of a promotion.



ANAPHORA

The repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses

WHY?

1. For emphasis
2. To build emotion
3. To make memorable
4. To make melodic/rhythmic



ANAPHORA

Choose one and explain how the use of anaphora impacts its meaning:

1. The apartment was on the top floor—a small living-room, a small dining-room, a small bedroom, and a bath.
- 2..We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender...
3. You better watch out. You better not cry. You better not pout. I'm tellin' you why...



APOSTROPHE

Directly addressing a person, object, or idea

WHY?

1. To direct the reader's attention to someone/something other than who is speaking
2. To show respect to/the importance of the thing being addressed
3. For dramatic effect



APOSTROPHE

Choose one and explain what meaning it might convey to the reader.

1. “O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?”
2. “Blue moon/ You saw me standing alone/ Without a dream in my heart...”
3. “Hello darkness my old friend/ I’ve come to talk with you again...”

Or, can you think of an example from a song you know?



ANECDOTE

a brief account of an interesting, amusing, or biographical incident

Why?

1. To illustrate a point
2. To hook a reader's attention
3. To share experience
4. To entertain



ANECDOTE

Choose one and decide what you think its purpose might be.

1. A speaker is giving a talk to teenagers about the risks of using drugs. During his presentation, he reminds them of a well-known straight-A student who died of a heroin overdose a few years before.
2. A doctor talking to a group of war amputees tells them about a soldier who came in with no hands and no hope—but left the hospital holding his newborn baby in his prosthetic hands.
3. Remember when gas was under a dollar? We used to fill up the old Chevy and drive up and down the avenue just looking for trouble.
4. The lights dimmed and the curtain crawled upwards. As the light revealed itself, she stood on stage alone, trembling.



DENOTATION/CONNOTATION

The dictionary definition of the word (**denotation**) and the ideas/feelings that word invokes (**connotation**).

Why?

1. To create emotional associations
2. To set a tone
3. To persuade



DENOTATION/CONNOTATION

1. Look up the word *frugal*. Write its denotation, and list the feelings/ideas associated with the word (its connotations).
2. Consider the word *firm*. What are some positive connotations to this word? What negative connotations also exist?
3. Consider the word *visitor*. What is another word for this that has a more positive connotation? What's another word for this that has a more negative connotation?



IMAGERY

Use of literal or figurative language to add symbolism and enable the reader to imagine the world of the piece of literature. It engages the senses to deepen the reader's comprehension of what is happening and how to feel about it.

WHY?

1. Because humans understand things better when senses are engaged.
2. It awakens an emotional response
3. To open up experiences to a reader
4. To give you a sense of what the writer values



IMAGERY

Oftentimes, imagery takes on a PATTERN. You may notice words, details, descriptions, or figurative language that lead you to imagine a certain category of ideas.

Common categories of imagery include RELIGIOUS, NATURE (PASTORAL), VISUAL, AUDITORY, EMOTIONAL, FUTURISTIC, etc.



IMAGERY

What kinds of imagery do you see the writer using here:

The snow glows white on the mountain tonight

Not a footprint to be seen...

The wind is howling like this swirling storm inside

Couldn't keep it in, heaven knows I've tried...

Let it go, let it go

Can't hold it back anymore.



MOOD

Mood is the atmosphere the author creates using descriptive language. It is often confused with tone (the attitude the writer is taking toward the subject), but MOOD focuses on the feeling the reader gets while reading.

HOW?

1. Setting
2. Tone
3. Imagery
4. Word choice



MOOD

What moods do these examples create?

1. "The river, reflecting the clear blue of the sky, glistened and sparkled as it flowed noiselessly on."
2. "Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing, Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before"
3. "Do you know, I always thought unicorns were fabulous monsters, too? I never saw one alive before!" "Well, now that we have seen each other," said the unicorn, "if you'll believe in me, I'll believe in you."