Notes on Literary Terms

- **Simile**: When two different objects are compared with the help of words like – “as”, “like”, “as...as” etc, it becomes a simile.
  
  Example:
  
  - My mother is as beautiful as a red rose.
  - He is like a walking dictionary.

- **Metaphor**: When two different objects are compared without the help of words like – “as”, “like”, “as...as” etc, it becomes a metaphor.

  Example:
  
  - The bright sun is an orange.
  - He is a couch potato.

- **Imagery**: Imagery are the words or phrases that a writer selects to create a certain picture in a reader’s mind, which appeal to our senses – sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste.

  Example:

  - The Greek gods made Pandora, Hera gave her eyes bluer than the Aegean Sea, Apollo gave her a voice sweeter than a nightingale and Midas gave her the ability to grow the juiciest fruits. She had sight, hearing and taste.
skin softer than silk, and wore fragrant roses and jasmine.

Touch         smell

- **Personification**: When we put human characteristics in non-living objects, and the object acts like a human and it’s the ‘doer’ or the subject of the sentence, it is known as personification.

  Example:
  - The wind *whistled* my name in the rains.
  - The bottle is *sweating* in the hot-humid summer.
  - The daffodils *nodded* their golden heads at us.

- **Hyperbole**: A hyperbole is a sentence that exaggerates human emotions and facts to a very extreme level that cannot be true in real life.

  Example:
  - I am so hungry I can *eat a horse*.
  - I’ve been *waiting* for my mom to get ready for a century.

  - In the above picture, the 1st image is Hyperbole as it suggests that it takes really long time to put on these shoes and the 2nd image shows the reality – what would happen if the shoes really took 50 million years!

- **Pun**: Pun is to play with words to make humor or a comedy. The sounds of the words are almost the same but the meanings are different.

  Example:
  - “Give me a hand with this.” “Which hand?”
“You’re fired!” Said my boss with all his anger and fire.

Here, “bear hands” can sound as “bear hand- the hand of bear” or “bare hand- without any tool”.

- **Alliteration**: The repetition of either consonant or vowel sounds at the beginning of the words in a sentence.
  - Candy Catherine caught a cold.
  - Pretty Polly picked a poppy.
  - Ants are arranging their food in the attic.

- In the 1<sup>st</sup> image, the letter “S” and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> image, the letter “A” has been repeated.

- **Consonance**: The repetition of consonant sounds at the end of the words in a sentence.
  - The long string was very strong.
  - The water falls by the castle walls.

- **Climax:** Climax is a literary device where words or events are arranged from the least important to most important to emphasize on the seriousness of the situation.
  
  Example:
  - The thunder became louder and louder after which the storm started.
  - I got my report card today, my mom will kill me.

- In the above image, books are arranged from single book to more books and the growing number of books indicates climax.

- **Anti-Climax:** Anti-climax is a literary device where words or events are arranged from the most important to least important to make the situation lighter or funny.
  
  Example:
  - When the ship was sinking, the captain remembered that he didn’t wear his cap.
  - Today is my Day of Judgment; the principal told my mother that I fell asleep in class.

- In the above image, the arrangement from the bigger dog to the smaller one indicates Anticlimax.

- **Symbol:** When an abstract or concrete object is represented through another abstract or concrete object, it is called a symbol.
  
  Example:
  - The man has a dark mind.
  - When my mother saw my test paper, her eyes became red.
The above images shows the symbolical meaning of water, Robin, Rooster and Sandpiper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>New life, New Beginning</td>
<td>Spring is when the earth comes back to life and everything is in bloom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>During the summer, people have fun, and everything is growing and active like the youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Middle age, Maturity, Success</td>
<td>Autumn is late in the year, and the growing season ends the same way middle age is a time when people slow down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Old age, death, Suffering</td>
<td>In the winter, nothing grows, and everything is still.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunrise</td>
<td>New beginnings, hope</td>
<td>The sunrise is the beginning of a new day and each day offers a chance to start all over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset</td>
<td>Dying, ending, changes</td>
<td>Sunset is when the day ‘dies’ and changes into night. The sunset is an ending because it is the end of the day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Ending, death, mystery, evil</td>
<td>Night is the end of the day, signifying the death of the day. Also, more crimes happen during the night, therefore it signifies bad things and mystery/the unknown.</td>
</tr>
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**Irony Definition**

Irony is a figure of speech in which words are used in such a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning of the words. It may also be a situation that may end up in quite a different way than what is generally anticipated. In simple words, it is a difference between the appearance and the reality.

**Types of Irony**

On the grounds of the above definition, we distinguish two basic kinds of irony i.e. verbal irony and situational irony. A verbal irony involves what one does not mean. When in response to a foolish idea, we say, “what a great idea!” it is a verbal irony. In the following picture, it’s not nice weather for the snail at all! The snail is using verbal Irony to mean that it’s not enjoying the weather at all.
A situational irony occurs when, for instance, a man is chuckling at the misfortune of the other even when the same misfortune, in complete unawareness, is befalling him. It also shows the difference between what is expected and what is really happening like the following picture the girl is saying that the boat is very big and it will never sink and then just the opposite happens-the boat starts to sink:

Difference between Dramatic Irony and Situational Irony

Dramatic irony is a kind of irony in a situation, which the writers frequently employ in their works. In situational irony, both the characters and the audience are fully unaware of the implications of the real situation. In dramatic irony, the characters are oblivious of the situation but the audience is not. For example, in "Romeo and Juliet", we know much before the characters that they are going to die.
In the above picture, the bird is not aware of the attack of the snake on it.
In real life circumstances, irony may be comical, bitter or sometimes unbearably offensive.

**Sarcasm:** Irony employed in the service of mocking or attacking someone is sarcasm. Saying "Oh, you're sooo clever!" with sarcasm means the target is really just a dunderhead. In Greek, sarkazein meant "to tear flesh; to wound." When you use sarcasm, you really tear into them.

Example: in the following picture, “Mr. important’ has been sarcastically used.

- Keep rolling your eyes. May be you will find a brain back there- here, its suggested the person is not intelligent.

**Apostrophe:**
Apostrophe is a figure of speech sometimes represented by exclamation “O”. A writer or a speaker, using an apostrophe, detaches himself from the reality and addresses an imaginary character in his speech usually a nonliving (sun, Moon, Nature etc.) or nonhuman being (Animal, Birds etc.) or a dead person or somebody who is not in front of the speaker.. It is important not to confuse the apostrophe which is a figure of speech and the apostrophe which is a punctuation mark (’).

Example: In the following picture, death, a nonliving thing, has been addressed.

In the following nursery rhyme, the stars have been addressed:

“Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.”

**Anaphora Definition**

In writing or speech, the deliberate repetition of the first part of the sentence in order to achieve an artistic effect is known as **Anaphora**.

Anaphora, possibly the oldest literary device, has its roots in Biblical Psalms used to emphasize certain words or phrases. Gradually, Elizabethan and Romantic writers brought this device into practice. Examine the following psalm:

“**O LORD**, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. Have mercy upon me, **O LORD**; for I am weak: **O LORD**, heal me; for my bones are vexed. My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, **O LORD**, how long?”

In the 1st image, ‘I will try harder in my class” has been repeated and in the 2nd image, “we shall” and “we shall fight” have been repeated.

**Definition of Epistrophe**

Epistrophe is derived from a Greek word that means turning upon, which indicates the same word returns at the end of each sentence. Epistrophe is a stylistic device that can be defined as the repetition of phrases or words at the end of the clauses or sentences. It is also called **epiphora**. Epistrophe examples are frequently found in literary pieces, in persuasive writing and speeches. In the following picture, the word, ‘Late’ has been repeated at the end:
The Difference between Anaphora and Epistrophe

**Anaphora** is the opposite of Epistrophe and means the repetition of the same phrase or word at the beginning of successive sentences such as in this example.

1. *Five* years have passed;  
   *Five* summers, with the length of  
   *Five* long winters! And again I hear these waters...

   However, in Epistrophe, the repetition of phrases or words is at the end of successive sentences such as;

   2. Hourly joys be still upon you! Juno sings her blessings on **you**. . . .  
      Scarcity and want shall shun **you**,  
      Ceres’ blessing so is on **you**.”

**Paradox:** The term Paradox is from the Greek word “paradoxon” that means contrary to expectations, existing belief or perceived opinion. It is a statement that appears to be self-contradictory or silly but may include a hidden truth. It is also used to illustrate an opinion or statement contrary to accepted traditional ideas. A paradox is often used to make a reader think over an idea in innovative way.

Example:

“Truth is honey which is bitter”- here, honey has been compared with truth and it is means that truth is not always pleasant though it is good.
What do you think is the meaning of the above picture???

**Allusion:** Allusion is a brief and indirect reference to a person, place, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance. It does not describe in detail the person or thing to which it refers. It is just a passing comment and the writer expects the reader to possess enough knowledge to spot the allusion and grasp its importance in a text.

Example:

-“This place is like a Garden of Eden.” – This is a biblical allusion to the “garden of God” in the Book of Genesis.

-I was surprised his nose was not growing like Pinocchio’s. Here, it’s referring to Pinocchio’s having long nose for lying.

**Assonance:** Assonance takes place when two or more words, in a sentence, repeat the same vowel sound but start with different consonant sounds.

Example:

-I feel depressed and restless.

-Let the cat out of the bag.
Onomatopoeia: Onomatopoeia or sound word is defined as a word, which imitates the natural sounds of a thing. It creates a sound effect that mimics the thing described, making the description more expressive and interesting.

Example:

The sack fell into the river with a splash.

The different sounds of animals are also considered as examples of onomatopoeia. You will recognize the following sounds easily:

Meow, Moo, Neigh, Tweet, Oink, Baa

The above images show the use of Onomatopoeia or sound words like ‘pow’, ‘whap’ and ‘thonk’ to describe fighting in the pic where Robin from the comic series Batman is punching the villain or Spiderman is fighting with his enemies.