

Literary Choices

Use Sharon Hamilton's *Essential Literary Terms* (New York: WW Norton, 2007) to learn more about these terms. Make sure you know what it means before you use it in your writing. Here are some examples of how to use the terms below:

- The writer **personifies [inanimate object]** *Ives personifies the washing machine*
- The writer uses **[X] as a metaphor for [Y]** *Park uses space travel as a metaphor for her experience in love.*
- The writer makes **a pun on the word [X] to mean [Y]** *Johnson makes a sorrowful pun on the word "leaves" to mean both the fallen autumn leaves and the fact that she leaves him.*
- The writer **uses [the term] when she writes, "[quote]"**. *Burns uses concrete imagery and a simile when he writes, "My love is like a red, red rose / That's newly sprung in June." Behn uses classical allusion when she writes of "amorous Lysander."*

No matter how you structure your sentences, in order to *identify a literary choice*, you need to specify two things: 1) the literary choice the writer's making and 2) what specifically in the text demonstrates that choice. Somewhere else in your writing, you'll need to explain how the choice works: how Burns' lover is blushing, or how Lysander (like Behn's lover) can't fulfill his promises.

Making comparisons	Schemes and strategies	Characters & Plot Structure	Poetic Forms
Simile	Apostrophe	Flat characters	Heroic couplet
Metaphor	Invocation	Round characters	Closed/Open Couplet
Mixed Metaphor	Rhetorical Question	Protagonist	Tercets
Extended metaphor	Anaphora	Hero	<i>Terza rima</i>
Subtext	Antithesis	Antagonist	Quatrain
Personification	Chiasmus	Villian	Ballad Meter
Allegory	Imagery	Foil	Italian Sonnet
Synecdoche	Symbolism	Stock characters	English Sonnet
Metonymy	Atmosphere	Verisimilitude	<i>Volta</i>
Allusion	Epiphany	Repartee	Blank Verse
Analogy	Selection/Order of Details	Soliloquy	Free Verse
Making contrasts		Aside	Rhyming and Sound
Hyperbole	Types of irony	<i>In Medias Res</i>	End Rhyme
Understatement	Verbal irony	Exposition	Double/Triple Rhyme
Paradox	Sarcasm	Flashback	Double/Triple Rhyme
Oxymoron	Dramatic irony	Pacing	Masc/Fem Rhyme
Litotes	Tragic irony	Parenthetical observation	Internal Rhyme
Periphrasis	Cosmic irony	Subplot	Rhyme Scheme
Pun		Shift in Style	Eye Rhyme
Equivoque	Narratives & Point of View		Half-rhyme
Word choice and sentence structure	Voice	Poetic Meters	Alliteration
Formal language v. Colloquial language	1st-person point of view	Feet: Iamb, Anapest, Trochee, Dactyl, Spondee.	Consonance
Abstract language v. Concrete language	3rd-person omniscient	Meter: Monometer, Dimeter, Trimeter, Tetrameter, Pentameter, Hexameter, Heptameter	Assonance
Poetic Diction	Intrusive narrator		Onomatopoeia
Unusual Syntax	Objective narrator		
Parallelism	Narrator in drama		
Simple Sentence	3rd-person limited		
Loose Sentences	stream of consciousness	End-stopped lines	
Periodic Sentences	2nd-person	Enjambéd lines	
	Setting	Caesura	
	Tone	Couplets	