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]** *Pork 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.