

A plays with the meaning of words.  
(cannot be true)

B plays on the sounds of words.

## [FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE]

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Writing poetry is a challenging task because there are several literary devices to use that make the words come alive. Just as you have to understand "Elements of Literature" to fully analyze short stories, you have to be familiar with these Literary Devices when analyzing poetry. Condensed.

Some devices are intended to help **create a picture in the reader's mind**, such as: meaning.



1. **Simile**: a direct comparison between two unlike things introduced by "like" or "as" (Authors can still use these words without using them as similes, though.) uses

"I came in like a wrecking ball"  
A B

"Cooking M&M's like a pound of bacon"  
A B

"We're like diamonds in the sky"  
A B

A is like B.  
as

2. **Metaphor**: this is a comparison between two unlike things, not using "like" or "as".

A is B

B insert a comparison as the adjective.

"My heart's a stereo"  
A B

"I was putty in your hands"  
A

"Baby, you're a firework"  
A B

"You are the thunder and I am the lightning"  
A B

- her diamond smile

- their W&A relationship  
abusive  
ident.

3. **Personification**: to give human or life-like characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or abstract ideas.

- shy cute

- skittish coll.

"This city never sleeps at night" — personification

"When you smile the whole world stops and smiles for a while" — personif.

"It's the house telling you to close your eyes"  
— personif.

"Some kind of madness is swallowing me whole"  
— personif.

human - actions  
          - emotions  
          - motivations

# Play on sounds of words

## poetry

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Other devices are used solely for their **auditory effect** when they are **read aloud**, such as:

1. **Alliteration**: the <sup>proximity</sup> neighbouring words begin with the same letter or sound.

(1 or 2 syllables)

allit.

"you want a white wedding/and a hand you can hold" allit.

"Black, black, black, and blue/beat me till I'm numb" allit.

"Paint the picture/of the perfect place" allit.



2. **Assonance**: similarity of vowel sounds inside the words in proximity.

"If I ever did that/I think I'd have a heart attack"

"tick tock on the clock/but the party don't stop"

"the stairs creak as you sleep/it's keeping me awake"

3. **Consonance**: repetition of consonant sounds inside the words in proximity.

"You want a white wedding/and a hand you can hold"

"baby just shout it out/shout it out!"

"Some kind of madness/is swallowing me whole"

"Baby you're a firework/mon show em what you're worth"

4. **Onomatopoeia**: the sound of the word mimics the sound to which it refers.

"Gotta get that boom, boom, boom"

"Tick tock on the clock"

play on meaning of words

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4. **Hyperbole:** an extreme exaggeration. (cannot be literal)

"I've been wandering the desert/for a thousand days" — hyperbole

"Like when you said you felt/so happy you could die"

"If I ever did that/I think I'd have a heart attack"

"I have loved you for a thousand years"

5. **Mood:** The emotional environment of the poem, also called atmosphere.

tone

fearful  
panic  
anxiety

neutral  
pensive

confrontational  
aggressive

6. **Juxtaposition:** ~~two or more things are placed side by side, even though they aren't usually associated with each other.~~

- \* 7. **Imagery:** to use words or phrases to stimulate the memory of one of the reader's five senses (sight, touch, hearing, taste, or smell) specific language to trigger senses.

the sunset — x

the brilliant glow of the orange horizon — specific visual

cool ice cream x

- the brittle and gritty crust between my teeth (feel)  
of the over ice cream

5. ~~**Euphony:** the inherent sweetness of the sound of the words.~~
6. ~~**Cacophony:** The harsh, discordant sound of the words used.~~
7. **Rhyme:** Similarity of sounds between words used at the end of lines or in the middle of lines.
8. **Rhythm:** the flow of the poem as created by the alternating stressed and unstressed syllables.
9. **Repetition:** The deliberate repetition of words for emphasis.

Challenge:

“caught it in washing it bout to go/and get some compliments/passin’ up on those moccasins/someone else has been rocking in”

“they had a broken keyboard/I bought a broken keyboard/I bought a skeet blanket/and then I bought a kneeboard”

“But he keeps on forgetting/what he wrote down/the whole crowd grows so loud/he opens his mouth but the words don’t/come out”