

#### **Poetic Device / literary Device:**

A Poetic devices is a tool or the use of words, phrases, elements that enhances or intensifies the meaning, mood or feeling in the content.

## 1. Personification:

Personification is an attribution of human characteristic to something nonhuman like animals, vegetation and abstract notions.

#### **Examples**:

#### Death be no proud by John Donne

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so; For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.

Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men, And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell, And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then? One short sleep past, we wake eternally And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

#### From Pride and Prejudice by William Shakespeare

ii. "her heart was divided between concern for her sister, and resentment against all the others."

iii. I still remember the day when I first saw you running towards me,

You played, studied and slept under my shed.

#### iv. Voice of Rain

And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower,

Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:

I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain,

**V.** "My Mother at –66" by Kamala Das:

"and looked out at Young

Trees sprinting,

the merry children

spilling out of their homes"

vi. "An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum" by Stephen Spender

"Open-handed map awarding the world its world."

vii. "Keeping Quiet" by Pablo Neruda

"Perhaps the Earth can teach us as when everything seems dead and later proves to be alive."

#### 2. Hyperbole/Overstatement:

Thus, hyperbole is use of words or phrase that exaggerate or overemphasize the basic statement to add grandeur to the subject or a noun.

The word hyperbole has been derived from the root word, 'hyper' that mean 'over, above or beyond' while 'bole' means 'throw'.

#### **Examples:**

i. 'The People, Yes' by Carl Sandburg

"It's a slow burg – I spend a couple of weeks there one day"

ii. 'Speed adjustment' by John Ciardi

'Why does a boy who's fast as a jet takes all day and sometimes two to get to school"



And the pretty blond woman drowned into tears

v. It was raining cats and dogs.

# **Example from Text:**

vi. 'Going Places' by A. R. Barton

"Danney Cassey was a blend of innocence and Irish genius."

#### 3. Oxymoron:

it is poetic device using to different self-contradictory words to create a new word or impression.

Oxymoron is the combination of two Greek root words 'Oxus' means 'sharp' and 'Moros' means 'foolish, dull or stupid.'

# **Example:**

'Romeo is addressing these lines to Benvolio

"Why, then, O brawling love! O loving hate!

O anything, of nothing first create!

O heavy lightness! serious vanity!

Mis - shapen chaos of well-seeming forms!

Feather of lead, bright smoke,

cold fire, sick health!

Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!

This love feel I, that feel no love in this.

# **Example from everyday life:**

ii. It was an open secret among people

iii. She was awfully beautiful

iv.The handsome giant was ready to register his first appearance in Bollywood.

#### 4. **Imagery**

is use of words and phrases that create a mental picture of the character in the mind of the readers and thus allow the reader to make a mental picture of the situation. It makes the reader see, feel, smell and even taste the thing or situation.

#### **Example:**

1. 'Nighty Sky' by Ocean Vuong

"The night was black as ever, but right stars lit up the sky in beautiful and varied constellations which were sprinkled across the astronomical landscape."

2. "The candy melted in her mouth and swirls of bittersweet chocolate and slightly sweet but salty caramel blended together on her tongue"

# **Example:**

- i. "My Mother at 66" by Kamala Das:
- b. "the merry children spilling out of their homes"
- a. "on clean clothes and walk about with their brothers in the shade"



is the use of symbolic words or phrases to represent an idea that is different from the literary meaning of the word:

#### **Example:**

1. 'Fire and Ice' by Robert Frost

Some say the world will end in fire, Some say in ice From what I've tasted of desire I hole with those who favor fire But if it had to perish twice I think I know enough of hate to say that for destruction ice is also great and would suffice

- i. "Keeping Quiet" by Pablo Neruda
- a. "Now I will count up to twelve"
- b. "on clean clothesand walk about with theirbrothers in the shade"
- c. Those who prepare green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire.

ii. Aunt Jennifer's Tigers

by Adrienne Rich

a. "massive weight of Uncle's wedding band sits heavily upon Aunty Jennifer's hand."

## **Other Examples:**

Rain – Prosperity

**Black** – Doom and destruction

White – Peace and prosperity

**Bat** – Bad omen

# 6. SIMILE

Figure of speech making a comparison between to unlike things using 'like' 'a' and 'as-as'

## **Example:**

i. From 'Candle in the wind' by Elton John "She was living her life like a candle in the wind."

ii. Shakespeare's sonnet

"My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;

Coral is far more red than her lips' red;

iii. 'In my life' by Bon Jovi

- iv. "My Mother at 66" by Kamala Das:
- a. "Her face ashen like"
- b. "I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter's moon"
- v. "My heart is like an open highway"
  She was as busy as bee
- vi. Without a spectacle I am as blind as a bat

vii. "An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum" by Stephen Spender

a. "children's faces.

Like rootless weeds"

- b. "windows that shut upon their lives like catacombs"
- c. spectacles of steel with mended glass, like bottle bits

#### 7. Metaphor:

Is a poetic device comparing two different things saying that one thing is other. It helps make a resemblance between them.

Note: The common or the most striking difference between simile and metaphor is that while simile uses the connecting words 'like' 'as' and 'as-as'; a metaphor makes a comparison without using these words.

#### i. 'Dreams' by Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken – winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams For when dreams go Life is a barren field Frozen with snow.

# ii. 'Venus and Adonis' by Shakespeare

"Love is a spirit all compact of fire"

iii. 'The Barrel - Organ' by Alfred Noyes

"The cherry trees are seas of bloom and soft perfume"

- iv. "My Mother at 66" by Kamala Das:
- a. "but after the airport's security check,

standing a few yards away, I looked again"

- v. "An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum" by Stephen Spender
- a. "The paper- seeming boy, with rat's eyes."
- b. "Where all their future's painted with a fog."

vi. "Keeping Quiet" by Pablo Neruda

a. "walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing."

## 8. Epithet:

Derivation: The word 'Epithet' comes from Greek via Latin noun 'epitheton' meaning 'to add' or 'to attribute'. Thus an 'epithet' is a descriptive word or phrase that is joined with name of someone or something to describe a character in a more vivid and strong manner.

Note: Epithet are usually adjectives:

#### **Example**:

- i. Alexender the great.
- ii. The Odyssey by Homer:

"I've come,

As you surmise, with comrades on a ship

Sailing across the wine-dark sea to men

Whose style of speech is very different."

iii. The hued eyed monster

Moved to capture the city

iv. The diary of Anne Frank

"The diary became her true friend, guide and teacher."

### 9. Transferred Epithet:

'A transferred epithet' when the adjective or modifier is transferred to different noun from and thus modifies some other noun.

i. We had a wonderful evening ahead.

ii. The Necklace

After the loss of the diamond necklace

She realized the hard laborious days ahead

iii. The grandmother looked through

Her concerned eyes the children working

In hazardous industry.

### **Example from Flamingo:**

iv. "My Mother at – 66" by Kamala Das:

"Fishermen in the cold sea Would not harm the whales."

#### 10. Onomatopoeia:

Naming or giving name to some action or sound.

Note: The word is the combination of two Greek root words- 'Onoma' meaning 'name' and 'Poiein' means 'to make'.

# **Example**

i. Slap

ii. Boring

iii. Plop of rain water

iv. Buzz of bee

v. Hiss of snake or a person

vi. Rustling of leaves

vii. Sprinkle.

11.Repetition: is a poetic device using a word, phrase or line in close proximity for two or more times to create a sense of urgency. Moreover, repetition of words is easy to be rolled out of the tongue and thus makes it easy to learn.

i. 'Tintern Abbey'
by William Wordsworth

"Five years have passed;

Five summers, with the length of

Five long winters! And again, I hear

these water...

ii. From T.V show Mr. Ed.

"A horse is a horse, of course, of course, And no one can talk to a horse of course, That is, of course, unless the horse is the famous Mr. Ed".

iii. 'Richard III by Shakespeare

'My conscience hath a thousand several tongues, And every tongue brings in a several tales, And every tale condemns me for a villain."

ii. "it was raining money day and night, day and night.

**Examples from Flamingo:** 

iii. "My Mother at – 66"

by Kamala Das

"I did was smile and smile and

smile....."

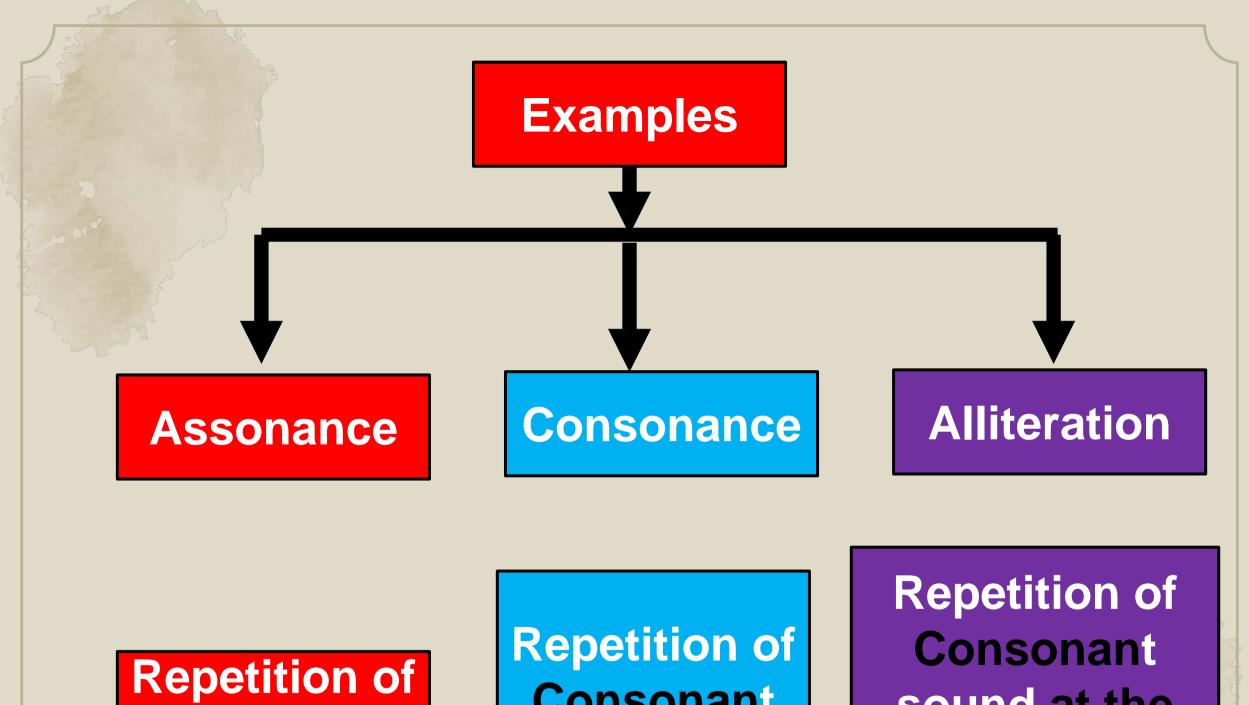
vi. "Keeping Quiet"

by Pablo Neruda

"It would be an exotic moment without rush, without engines,"

v. "An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum" by Stephen Spender

"Far far from rivers, capes, and stars of words."



**Vowel Sound** 

Consonant sound

sound at the beginning of a word

- 12. <u>Assonance</u>: It is repetition of vowel sound in closely connected words:
- i. 'Long O in Early Moon' by Carl Sandburg
  - "Poetry is old, ancient, goes back far.

It is among the oldest of living things.

So bold it is that no man knows

How and why the first poem came

#### **Examples from Flamingo:**

iii. "My Mother at – 66"

by Kamala Das:

- a. "Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me"
- b. her face ashen like that

13. Consonance: It is repetition of consonant sounds in closely connected words:

i. IT (1990), A Hollywood Movie

"He thrusts his fists against the post and still insists he sees the ghost."

ii. Norms and worms took the garden by storm

14. <u>Alliteration</u>: It is repetition of consonant sound at the beginning of a closely connected words:

#### **Examples**:

i. 'The lake isle of Innisfree' by W. B. Yeats

'I hear lake water lapping With low sound by the shore'

i. 'The lake isle of Innisfree'

by W. B. Yeats

'I hear lake water lapping

With low sound by the shore'

ii. 'Conclusive Evidence'
by Vladimir Nobokov

"A moist young moon hung above

the mist of a neighbouring meadow."

iii. The teacher took the troublesome boy to task.

#### **Examples from Flamingo:**

- iv."My Mother at 66" by Kamala Das:
  all I did was smile and
  smile and smile.....
- v. "An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum" by Stephen Spender
- a. "Far far from gusty waves these children's faces."
- b. "A narrow street sealed in with a lead sky"

# THANKS FOR WATCHING