



LITERARY DEVICES CHEAT SHEET

ALLEGORY

A story, poem, picture, or other form that uses symbols to represent abstract ideas or concepts.

ALLUSION

An indirect reference to a well-known piece of work, event, or figure.

ALLITERATION

The repetition of the same letter or sound at the beginning of a word.

FORESHADOWING

A technique where a storyteller hints at events that will not occur until later in the story.

HYPERBOLE

An over the top exaggeration for emphasis or effect.

IMAGERY

The use of descriptive language (can be literal or figurative) that invokes the senses.

IRONY

When something occurs that is the opposite of what is expected. A contrast between expectation and reality.

METAPHOR

A direct comparison between two things, often unrelated.

ONOMATOPOEIA

Words that imitate the sounds they describe.

OXYMORON

The combination of two words that are contradictory in nature. Invokes humor, irony, deeper meanings, etc.

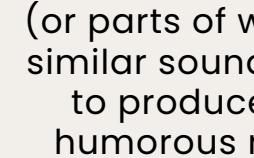
PARADOX

Text that appears contradictory but actually reveals a deeper truth.

PERSONIFICATION

Giving human attributes to non-humans, inanimate objects or abstract ideas.

PUN



The substitution of words (or parts of words) with similar sounding words to produce new or humorous meaning.

SIMILE

A comparison between two things that uses the words "like" or "as"

SYMBOLISM

The use of an object or element to represent an abstract idea.