

Literary Terms #8 – Figurative Language (Part One)

Definition -- Figurative Language - is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from its literal intent and it appeals to the senses.

A. Imagery – Words or phrases which appeal to the senses

1. Concrete – specific words which describe such as “polka-dotted deer tail”
2. Abstract – general words of description such as “a tall man”

B. Metaphor – A comparison of two different items which states or implies that something is something else.

Example: All the world is a stage.

C. Simile – A comparison of two different items using “like” or “as” in the comparison.

Example: Busy as a bee.

D. Personification – To give human qualities to a non-human.

Example: The moon danced with the stars.

E. Hyperbole – To use extreme exaggeration in a figure of speech.

Example: I am so hungry I could eat a horse.

F. Alliteration – The repetition of the initial sounds of words throughout a line.

Example: Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

G. Onomatopoeia - The use of words whose sounds express or suggest their meaning.

Example: Flags flutter and flap in the breeze.

H. Repetition – The repeating of sounds or words within a line.

Example: I felt happy because I saw the others were happy and because I knew I should feel happy, but I wasn't really happy.