

Understanding literary devices

Master the
reading
strategy!



What are literary devices?

- techniques that writers use to produce artistic effects

Why do we need to use them?

- they are common in different kinds of text types both in daily life and in literature
- they enliven the text and bring richness and depth to it
- they help readers understand and remember the text better

Let's have a closer look!

alliteration	<u>G</u> race's <u>g</u> reat at <u>g</u> etting <u>G</u> reg to <u>g</u> rab some <u>g</u> oodies.
exaggeration	Let's jump high and <u>meet in the sky!</u>
metaphor	Jeff is a bad person and he is the <u>black sheep</u> of our family.
onomatopoeia	The fillets are <u>sizzling</u> in the pan.
personification	At night, <u>stars keep the moon company</u> so <u>she will never be alone.</u>
repetition	' <u>Benevolence is</u> loving yourself, your friends and family. <u>Benevolence is</u> being kind to everyone including strangers you don't know. <u>Benevolence is</u> the key to a happy life,' said Mr Tam.
rhyme	Here comes a jumpy <u>frog</u> , jumpier as it meets a fierce <u>dog.</u>
simile	The giant wave was <u>like a hunger-stricken shark</u> , lunging forward mercilessly and engulfing everything that comes in its way.

It is common to find literary devices like exaggeration and metaphor in **idioms**, e.g. Ian won the prize. Now he's **on cloud nine.**

Let's practise!

Billy bullies Belle

Big bad Billy always bullies Belle.
There is nothing else in which Billy can excel.
He pulls her ponytail and takes her books.
He even makes some funny looks.
On Billy Belle always needs to dwell.

Big bad Billy always bullies Belle.
But she is done and begins to yell,
'You have been a mosquito and that's enough!
Like a rat you steal my stuff.
I am going to Miss Lee and have you cuffed!'

Big bad Billy always bullies Belle.
That is why he is about to be expelled.
'I'm sorry. I did play tricks on her.
I swear from now on I will let her be.'
Tears run down his cheeks as he
promises to behave well.

Which of the following literary devices is NOT used in the poem?

- A. simile
- B. personification
- C. alliteration
- D. metaphor