

allegory:

Type: noun

1. a short moral story (often with animal characters) [syn: {fable}, {parable}, {apologue}]
2. a visible symbol representing an abstract idea [syn: {emblem}]
3. an expressive style that uses fictional characters and events to describe some subject by suggestive resemblances; an extended metaphor

alliteration:

Type: noun

1. use of the same consonant at the beginning of each stressed syllable in a line of verse; "around the rock the ragged rascal ran" [syn: {initial rhyme}, {beginning rhyme}, {head rhyme}]

allusion:

Type: noun

1. passing reference or indirect mention

ambiguity:

Type: noun

1. an expression whose meaning cannot be determined from its context

antagonist:

Type: noun

1. someone who offers opposition [syn: {adversary}, {opponent}, {opposer}, {resister}] [ant: {agonist}]

antecedent:

Type: noun

1. anything that precedes something similar in time; "phrenology was an antecedent of modern neuroscience" [syn: {forerunner}]

antihero:

Type: noun

1. a protagonist who lacks the characteristics that would make him a hero (or her a heroine) [also: {antiheroes} (pl)]

apostrophe:

Type: noun

1. address to an absent or imaginary person

archetype:

Type: noun

1. an original model on which something is patterned [syn: {original}, {pilot}]

assonance:

Type: noun

1. the repetition of similar vowels in the stressed syllables of successive words [syn: {vowel rhyme}]

attitude:

Type: noun

1. a theatrical pose created for effect; "the actor struck just the right attitude"

ballad:

Type: noun

1. a narrative song with a recurrent refrain [syn: {lay}]

blank verse:

Type: noun

1. unrhymed verse (usually in iambic pentameter)

cacophony:

Type: noun

1. loud confusing disagreeable sounds

catharsis:

Type: noun

1. (psychoanalysis) purging of emotional tensions [syn: {katharsis}, {abreaction}]
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clause:

Type: noun

1. (grammar) an expression including a subject and predicate but not constituting a complete sentence

connotation:

Type: noun

1. an idea that is implied or suggested

consonance:

Type: noun

1. the repetition of consonants (or consonant patterns) especially at the ends of words [syn: {consonant rhyme}]

convention:

Type: noun

1. something regarded as a normative example; "the convention of not naming the main character"; "violence is the rule not the exception"; "his formula for impressing visitors" [syn: {normal}, {pattern}, {rule}, {formula}]

denotation:

Type: noun

1. the most direct or specific meaning of a word or expression; the class of objects that an expression refers to; "the extension of 'satellite of Mars' is the set containing only Demos and Phobos" [syn: {reference}, {extension}]

deus ex machina:

Type: noun

1. any active agent who appears unexpectedly to solve an insoluble difficulty

diction:

Type: noun

1. the articulation of speech regarded from the point of view of its intelligibility to the audience [syn: {enunciation}]

didactic:

Type: adjective

1. instructive (especially excessively) [syn: {didactical}]

digression:

Type: noun

1. a message that departs from the main subject [syn: {aside}, {excursus}, {divagation}, {parenthesis}]

discordance:

Type: noun

1. a harsh mixture of sounds [syn: {discord}]

ellipsis:

Type: noun

1. omission or suppression of parts of words or sentences [syn: {eclipsis}] [also: {ellipses} (pl)]

end-stopped:

Type: adjective

1. (verse) having a rhetorical pause at the end of each line [ant: {run-on}]

epigram:

Type: noun

1. a witty saying [syn: {quip}]

euphemism:

Type: noun

1. an inoffensive expression that is substituted for one that is considered offensive [ant: {dysphemism}]

euphony:

Type: noun

1. any agreeable (pleasing and harmonious) sounds; "he fell asleep to the music of the wind chimes" [syn: {music}]

free verse:

Type: noun

1. unrhymed verse without a consistent metrical pattern [syn: {vers libre}]

grotesque:

Type: adjective

1. ludicrously odd; "Hamlet's assumed antic disposition"; "fantastic Halloween costumes"; "a grotesque reflection in the mirror" [syn: {antic}, {fantastic}, {fantastical}]

heroic couplet:

Type: noun

1. a couplet consisting of two rhymed lines of iambic pentameter and written in an elevated style

hyperbole:

Type: noun

1. extravagant exaggeration [syn: {exaggeration}]

imagery:

Type: noun

1. the ability to form mental images of things or events; "he could still hear her in his imagination" [syn: {imagination}, {imaging}, {mental imagery}]

imperative:

Type: adjective

- 1.

relating to verbs in the imperative mood

internal rhyme:

Type: noun

1. a rhyme between words in the same line

irony:

Type: noun

1. witty language used to convey insults or scorn; "he used sarcasm to upset his opponent"; "irony is wasted on the stupid"; "Satire is a sort of glass, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own"--Johathan Swift [syn: {sarcasm}, {satire}, {caustic remark}]

jargon:

Type: noun

1. a characteristic language of a particular group (as among thieves); "they don't speak our lingo" [syn: {cant}, {slang}, {lingo}, {argot}, {patois}, {vernacular}]

literal:

Type: adjective

1. without interpretation or embellishment; "a literal translation of the scene before him"

lyrical:

Type: adjective

1. suitable for or suggestive of singing

metaphor:

Type: noun

1. a figure of speech in which an expression is used to refer to something that it does not literally denote in order to suggest a similarity

narrative:

Type: adjective

1. consisting of or characterized by the telling of a story; "narrative poetry"

omniscient:

Type: adjective

1. infinitely wise [syn: {all-knowing}]

onomatopoeia:

Type: noun

1. using words that imitate the sound they denote

oxymoron:

Type: noun

1. conjoining contradictory terms (as in 'deafening silence') [also: {oxymora} (pl)]

parable:

Type: noun

1. a short moral story (often with animal characters) [syn: {fable}, {allegory}, {apologue}]

paradox:

Type: noun

1. (logic) a self-contradiction; "'I always lie' is a paradox because if it is true it must be false"

parody:

Type: noun

1. humorous or satirical mimicry [syn: {mockery}, {takeoff}]

periodic sentence:

Type: noun

1. a complex sentence in which the main clause comes last and is preceded by the subordinate clause

personification:

Type: noun

1. the act of attributing human characteristics to abstract ideas etc. [syn: {incarnation}]

point of view:

Type: noun

1. a mental position from which things are viewed; "we should consider this problem from the viewpoint of the Russians"; "teaching history gave him a special point of view toward current events" [syn: {viewpoint}, {stand}, {standpoint}]

reliability:

Type: noun

1. the trait of being dependable or reliable [syn: {dependability}, {dependableness}, {reliableness}] [ant: {undependability}, {undependability}, {undependability}, {undependability}]

protagonist:

Type: noun

1. the principal character in a work of fiction [syn: {agonist}]

rhyme:

Type: noun

1. correspondence in the sounds of two or more lines (especially final sounds) [syn: {rime}]

rhyme royal:

Type: noun

1. a stanza form having seven lines of iambic pentameter; introduced by Chaucer

satire:

Type: noun

1. witty language used to convey insults or scorn; "he used sarcasm to upset his opponent"; "irony is wasted on the stupid"; "satire is a sort of glass, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own"--Johathan Swift [syn: {sarcasm}, {irony}, {caustic remark}]

setting:

Type: noun

1. the context and environment in which something is set; "the perfect setting for a ghost story" [syn: {scene}]

simile:

Type: noun

1. a figure of speech that expresses a resemblance between things of different kinds (usually formed with `like' or `as')

soliloquy:

Type: noun

1. speech you make to yourself [syn: {monologue}]
2. a (usually long) dramatic speech intended to give the illusion of unspoken reflections

sonnet:

Type: noun

1. a verse form consisting of 14 lines with a fixed rhyme scheme

stanza:

Type: noun

1. a fixed number of lines of verse forming a unit of a poem

stereotype:

Type: noun

1. a conventional or formulaic conception or image; "regional stereotypes have been part of America since its founding"

syllogism:

Type: noun

1. deductive reasoning in which a conclusion is derived from two premises

symbol:

Type: noun

1. something visible that by association or convention represents something else that is invisible; "the eagle is a symbol of the United States" [syn: {symbolization}, {symbolisation}, {symbolic representation}] [also: {symboling}, {symbolled}]

syntax:

Type: noun

1. the grammatical arrangement of words in sentences [syn: {sentence structure}, {phrase structure}]

theme:

Type: noun

1. a unifying idea that is a recurrent element in a literary or artistic work; "it was the usual 'boy gets girl' theme" [syn: {motif}]

tone:

Type: noun

1. the quality of something (an act or a piece of writing) that reveals the attitudes and presuppositions of the author; "the general tone of articles appearing in the newspapers is that the government should withdraw"; "from the tone of her behavior I gathered that I had overstayed my welcome"