SMART™ Lesson Literary Devices

Introduction

A literary device is a technique that writers use to create a special effect in their writing. These techniques can help writers create a mood, communicate an idea, or emphasize a theme. To become a good reader and writer, it is important to understand some of the most common literary devices.

Types of Literary Devices Simile

A simile is a comparison between two things using "like" or "as".

Example: Her hair was as black as coal.

Question: What is being compared in the above simile?

Metaphor

A metaphor is a comparison between two things that doesn't use "like" or "as".

Example: Life is a journey.

Question: What is life being compared to in the above metaphor?

Personification

Personification is when non-human objects or animals are given human qualities.

Example: The wind whispered in my ear.

Question: What human quality is given to the wind in the above personification?

Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

Example: Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

Question: What letter is repeated in the above alliteration?

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is an exaggeration that is not meant to be taken literally.

Example: I could eat a horse.

Question: Is the statement "I could eat a horse" meant to be taken literally?

Conclusion

Literary devices are a crucial aspect of literature, and understanding them is essential for comprehending and analyzing texts. By learning about and recognizing these techniques, you'll be able to identify the ways in which writers create meaning and interest in their work.

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