

A **literary device** is a tool used by authors to **convey meaning**.

► Literary devices include **metaphor**, **symbolism**, **dialect**, and **irony**.

Literary Devices		Example	Meaning
Metaphor	Comparison of two unlike things that have something in common.	His hands are strong stories . He tells them sometimes when I let him hold mine. From Burnt Norton by T.S. Eliot	The author means the person has experienced a lot.
Symbolism	Use of a specific object to represent an idea.	Footfalls echo in the memory Down the passage which we did not take. Towards the door we never opened By T.S. Eliot	The author thinks about an experience that never took place.

CFU

Which is a metaphor? Explain.

- A The lake was a mirror for the clouds.**
- B The lake reflected the clouds.**

Which is an example of symbolism? Explain.

- A Jim gave Nancy a gift.**
- B Jim gave Nancy a red rose.**

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Literary Devices		Example	meaning
Dialect	Language spoken in a specific geographical area.	<p>"Yo' ole father doan' know yit what he's a-gwyne to do."</p> <p>-Jim, from <u>Huckleberry Finn</u> by Mark Twain</p> <p>Translation: "Your father does not know yet what he is going to do."</p>	The author's character Jim, is from the South. He has not been formally educated.
Irony	The meaning or outcome is opposite of what it appears or what is intended.	A famous singer sings her own song at a karaoke bar but is booed.	The author illustrates how you would think the singer's version is the best but the crowd felt differently.

CFU

Which is dialect? Explain.

A Park your car in Harvard Yard.

B Pahk your cah in Hahvad Yahd.

Which is irony? Explain.

A The fire station had a broken window.

B The fire station burned down.

- 1 Read the passage, noting the **bolded literary device**.
- 2 Use the literary device to interpret the author's meaning. (answer the questions.)

"My thoughts are stars I cannot fathom₃ into constellations₄."
from ***Fault In Our Stars*** by John Green

1. The author uses this metaphor to show:

- A he likes to think of stars
- B each thought is precious
- C his thoughts are bright
- D his thoughts are random

2. How are literary devices used to convey the author's meaning?

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."
From ***As You Like It*** by William Shakespeare

3. The author uses this metaphor to show:

- A he likes being an actor
- B life is a drama
- C actors are the best people
- D actors are not important

4. How are literary devices used to convey the author's meaning?

- 1 Read the passage, noting the **bolded literary device**.
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Breakfast By Mary Lamb

1. A dinner party, coffee, tea,
2. Sandwich, or supper, all may be
3. In their way pleasant. But to me
4. Not one of these deserves the praise
5. That welcomer of new-born days,
6. *A breakfast*, merits; ever giving
7. Cheerful notice we are living
8. Another day refreshed by sleep,
9. When its festival we keep.
10. Now although I would not slight
11. Those kindly words we use 'Good night',
12. Yet parting words are words of sorrow_s,
13. And may not vie with sweet 'Good Morrow',
14. With which again our friends we greet,
15. When in the breakfast-room we meet,

5. The author uses breakfast to symbolize:

- A** a new true love
- B** a fresh, new day
- C** a smile
- D** a party with friends

6. How are literary devices used to convey the author's meaning?

Skill Closure

- 1 Read the passage, noting the **bolded literary device**.
- 2 Use the literary device to interpret the author's meaning. (answer the questions.)

Fire and Ice

by Robert Frost

1. Some say the world will end in fire,
2. Some say in ice.
3. From what I've tasted of desire
4. I hold with those who favor fire.
5. But if it had to perish₈ twice,
6. I think I know enough of hate
7. To say that for destruction ice
8. Is also great
9. And would suffice₉.

1. The author uses ice to symbolize:

- A love
- B hatred
- C beauty
- D happiness

2. How are literary devices used to convey the author's meaning?

Concept Closure**Write an explanation.**

William identified the following text from Lemony Snicket's Unauthorized Autobiography as an ironic situation. Why is he correct?

"Today was a very cold and bitter day, as cold and bitter as a cup of hot chocolate; if the cup of hot chocolate had vinegar added to it and were placed in a refrigerator for several hours."

Summary Closure

What did you learn today about using literary devices to interpret an author's work?

Word Bank

literary device
metaphor
symbolism
dialect
irony

- 1 Read the passage, noting the **bolded literary device**..
- 2 Use the literary device to interpret the author's meaning. (answer the questions.)

The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry

"Now, there were **two possessions of the Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride**. One was **Jim's gold watch** that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was **Della's hair**."

"'You say **your hair is gone**?' he said with an **air almost of idiocy**."

"Jim, darling," she cried, "don't look at me that way. **I had my hair cut off and sold** because **I couldn't have lived through Christmas without giving you a present**..."

"**I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs**," said Jim.

1. The author uses irony when:

- A Jim hates Della's hair.
- B Della cannot use the gift Jim got her.
- C Della hates her gift.

2. How are literary devices used to convey the author's meaning?

A Poison Tree By William Blake

1. I was angry with my friend.
2. I told my wrath, my wrath₇ did end.
3. I was angry with my foe.
4. I told it not, my wrath did grow;
5. And I water'd it in fears,
6. Night and morning with my tears;
7. And I sunned it with smiles,
8. And with soft deceitful wiles₈;
9. And it grew both day and night
10. Till it bore an apple bright,
11. And my foe beheld it shine,
12. And he knew that it was mine,
13. And into my garden stole
14. When the night had veil'd the pole.
15. In the morning glad I see
16. My foe outstretched beneath the tree

1. The author uses metaphor to compare:

- A his anger to an apple tree
- B his anger to a garden
- C his anger to a smile
- D his anger to his tears

2. How are literary devices used to convey the author's meaning?



Listening

Listen to the passage read aloud.

Identify the literary devices you hear. Then, explain how they convey the author's meaning.

1. Literary Devices heard:

2. How are literary devices used to convey the author's meaning?



Reading

Read the author's work. Interpret the literary devices used.

We're All in the Telephone Book

by Langston Hughes

1. We're all in the telephone book,
2. Folks from everywhere on earth—
3. Anderson to Zabowski,
4. It's a record of America's worth.
5. We're all in the telephone book.
6. There's no priority—
7. A millionaire like Rockefeller
8. Is likely to be behind me.
9. For generations men have dreamed
10. Of nations united as one.
11. Just look in your telephone book
12. To see where the dream's begun.
13. When Washington crossed the Delaware
14. And the pillars of tyranny¹ shook,
15. He started the list of democracy
16. That's America's telephone book.

1. The author uses a telephone book to symbolize:

- A the wealthy people of America
- B the tyranny in America
- C the equality of American democracy
- D the fame of past presidents

2. How are literary devices used to convey the author's meaning?

Read the author's work. Interpret the literary devices used.

Conversation between Jim and Huck from *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

H: "Well, then, what makes you talk so wild?"

J: "How does I talk wild?"

H: "HOW? Why, hain't you been talking about my coming back, and all that stuff, as if I'd been gone away?"

J: "Huck -- Huck Finn, you look me in de eye; look me in de eye. HAIN'T you ben gone away?"

H: "Gone away? Why, what in the nation do you mean? I hain't been gone anywheres. Where would I go to?"

J: "Well, looky here, boss, dey's sumf'n wrong, dey is I ME, or who IS I? Is I heah, or whah IS I? Now dat's what I wants to know."

H: "Well, I think you're here, plain enough, but I think you're a tangle-headed old fool, Jim."

J: "I is, is I? Well, you answer me dis: Didn't you tote out de line in de canoe fer to make fas' to de towhead?"

H: "No, I didn't. What tow-head? I hain't see no tow-head."

J: "You hain't seen no towhead? Looky here, didn't de line pull loose en de raf' go a-hummin' down de river, en leave you en de canoe behine in de fog?"

1. The author uses dialect to show that:

A Jim comes from a different place than Huck

B Jim is an educated man

C Jim uses bad language

D Jim is untrustworthy

2. How are literary devices used to convey the author's meaning?

Read the author's work. Interpret the literary devices used.

"G'wan!" some wise guy dat I neveh seen befoeh pipes up. "Whatcha talkin' about?" he says—oh, he was wise, y'know. "Duh guy is crazy! I tell yuh what yuh do," he says to the big guy. "Yuh change to duh West End line at Toity-sixt'," he tells him. "Get off at Noo Utrecht an' Sixteent' Avenoo," he says. "Walk two blocks oveh, foeh blocks up," he says, "an' you'll be right deh." Oh, a wise guy, y'know.

From *Only the Dead Know Brooklyn* by
Thomas Wolfe

7. The author uses dialect to show:

- A** two guys arguing
- B** how hard it is to give directions
- C** the characters are from Brooklyn, NY
- D** stops on a subway train

8. How are literary devices used to convey the author's meaning?



Writing

Write an explanation.**Explain how irony is used in this passage.***from* **The Rime of the Ancient Mariner**

by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.

Water, water, every where,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, every where,
Nor any drop to drink.

Metaphor

Comparison of two unlike things
that have **something in common**.

Symbolism

Use of a **specific object to**
represent an idea.

Dialect

Language spoken in a specific
geographical area.

Irony

The meaning or outcome is
opposite of what it appears or what
is intended.
