

LITERARY TERMS

Mrs.Marroquin

English 1 Honors

ALLUSION

- An indirect reference to a famous person, place, historical event, or literary work.
- Example:
Gina had a smile that rivaled the Mona Lisa.



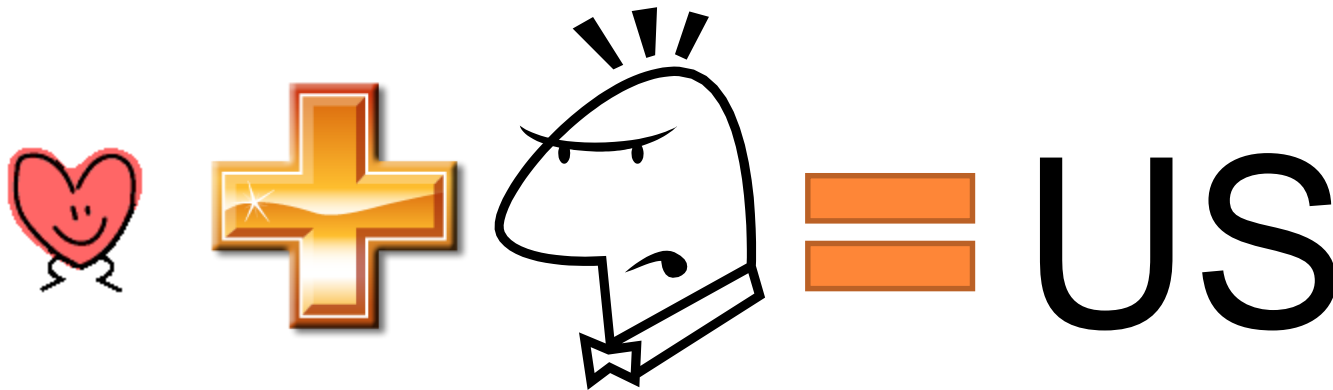
Mona Lisa painting by
Leonardo Davinci



OXYMORON

- Bringing together two contradictory terms or ideas.
- Example:

My brother and I have a love hate relationship.



Love and hate are contradictory terms that contradict each other. Another example, “loud silence” , “beautiful monster”



METAPHOR

- Comparing two unlike things withOUT using the words like or as. Can be direct, implied, extended, or mixed.
- Example:

“Baby, **you’re a firework**. Come on show ‘em what you’re worth...as **you shoot across the sky**.”

-Katy Perry, *Firework*

Comparing a person to fireworks, which are two unlike things being compared. She says you are a firework and you shoot across the sky like one.



SIMILE

- Comparing two unlike things using the words like or as.
- Example:

“Float **like** a butterfly, sting **like** a bee.”

-Muhammad Ali

Compares himself to a butterfly and a bee using the word like.

“Everything was fresh **as** the bright blue sky.”

Guns and Roses, *Sweet Child ‘O Mine*



HYPERBOLE

- Truth is exaggerated for emphasis or humorous effect.
- Example:
“I’m so hungry I could eat a cow.”
“I’m starving to death.”



PERSONIFICATION

- Giving human qualities to non-human objects or ideas.

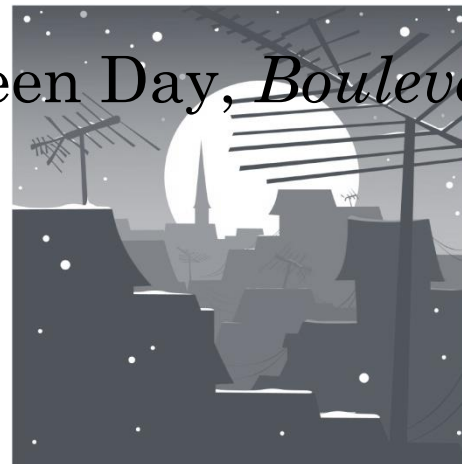
- Example:

“The **stars danced** across the sky.”

“**Hip hop just died** this morning
and **she’s dead, she’s dead**” Nas,

Hip Hop is Dead

“When the **city sleeps...**” Green Day, *Boulevard of Broken Dreams*



TONE

- Tone, in written composition, is an attitude of a writer toward a subject or an audience. Tone is generally conveyed through the choice of words or the viewpoint of a writer on a particular subject.

WORDS FOR TONE:.

Lighthearted, confident, amused, complimentary,

Obnoxious, insulting, choleric, disgusted, bitter,

Sarcastic, taunting, cynical, insolent, patronizing,

Somber, mournful, concerned, morose,

Formal, objective, questioning, learned, authoritative



DICTION

- the choice and use of words and phrases in speech or writing.
- Words that describe diction:
colloquial (slang), informal (conversational), formal (literary) or old-fashioned
- Words can be mainly denotative (containing an exact meaning, e.g., dress) or connotative (containing suggested meaning or emotion, e.g., gown)



IMAGERY

- **Imagery** is the **literary** term used for language and description that appeals to our five senses. When a writer attempts to describe something so that it appeals to our sense of smell, sight, taste, touch, or hearing; he/she has used **imagery**.
- We use imagery in everyday speech to convey our meaning. Here are some examples of imagery from each of the five senses:
- **Taste:** The familiar tang of his grandmother's cranberry sauce reminded him of his youth.
- **Sound:** The concert was so loud that her ears rang for days afterward.
- **Sight:** The sunset was the most gorgeous they'd ever seen; the clouds were edged with pink and gold.
- **Smell:** After eating the curry, his breath reeked of garlic.
- **Touch:** The tree bark was rough against her skin.



MOTIF

- Any element, subject, idea or concept that is repeatedly present through the entire body of literature (at least 3 times).
- The change of the element, subject, idea throughout the literature reveals the theme.

Example:

Authority in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Harry needs to deal with authority figures throughout the novel and in the end he rebels against Professor Quirrel and Voldemort. So a them could be, an exploration of self-empowerment.



FOR HOMEWORK

- Create a chart as the one below on your own paper:

| Literary Term | Definition in your own words | Example from the real world where you see the term being used |
|---------------|------------------------------|---|
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