

Mastering the Craft: Creative Writing Flashcards

Learning objective: To develop advanced descriptive writing techniques including expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials, and figurative language.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of literary devices and descriptive techniques. Challenge yourself to use these in your next story for BookFlik!

Fronted Adverbial

A word or phrase placed at the beginning of a sentence to describe when, where, or how an action happens, usually followed by a comma (e.g., 'With a graceful flutter, the butterfly landed.').

Simile

A figure of speech that compares two different things using the words 'like' or 'as' (e.g., 'The stars twinkled like scattered diamonds.').

Metaphor

A figure of speech that states one thing IS another to create a symbolic comparison (e.g., 'The night sky was a velvet blanket.').

Personification

Giving human qualities, emotions, or actions to non-human objects or animals (e.g., 'The wind whispered secrets through the trees.').

Alliteration

The repetition of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words (e.g., 'The busy bee buzzed by the bright blossoms.').

Onomatopoeia

Words that phonetically imitate the sound they describe (e.g., 'clatter', 'hiss', 'rustle', 'thump').

Expanded Noun Phrase

A phrase that adds more detail to a noun using adjectives or prepositional phrases (e.g., 'the ancient, golden-feathered owl sitting upon the branch').

Show, Don't Tell

A technique where a writer describes a character's actions, feelings, or the environment rather than stating them directly (e.g., writing 'His hands trembled' instead of 'He was scared').

Atmosphere

The overall feeling or mood of a piece of writing, created through descriptive word choices and sensory details.

Precise Vocabulary

Selecting specific, ambitious words to create a vivid image in the reader's mind (e.g., using 'scampered' instead of 'ran').