

Mastering Poetic Devices with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To identify, define, and evaluate the impact of poetic devices including metaphor, personification, and onomatopoeia.

Read each flashcard carefully. Leo the Lion has prepared these to help you understand how poets craft their imagery. Test your knowledge by defining the term on the front, then flip to check your answer.

Metaphor

A figure of speech where a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable, suggesting that one thing IS another (e.g., 'The moon was a ghostly galleon').

Simile

A comparison of two unlike things using the words 'like' or 'as' (e.g., 'The stars twinkled like scattered diamonds').

Personification

Attributing human characteristics, emotions, or intentions to non-human objects or abstract ideas (e.g., 'The wind whispered secrets through the trees').

Onomatopoeia

Words that phonetically imitate, resemble, or suggest the sound that they describe (e.g., 'buzz', 'hiss', or 'crackle').

Alliteration

The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words (e.g., 'seven silver swans').

Stanza

A grouped set of lines within a poem, usually set off from others by a blank line or indentation; often called a 'verse'.

Imagery

Visually descriptive or figurative language that appeals to the reader's senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) to create a mental picture.

Rhythm

The pattern of beats or stresses in a line of poetry, created by the arrangement of long and short, or stressed and unstressed syllables.

Rhyme Scheme

The ordered pattern of rhymes at the ends of the lines of a poem, often denoted by letters (e.g., ABAB).

Hyperbole

Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally, used for emphasis or comedic effect (e.g., 'I have told you a million times').