

# LANGUAGE TECHNIQUES

Technique	Definition	Example
Alliteration	Repetition of the first letter in words that follow.	"She sells sea shells by the sea shore". "His soul swooned slowly".
Colloquialism	The use of informal language.	"She'll be right".
Hyperbole	Over exaggeration of something to create a dramatic effect.	"I can smell pizza from a mile away". "These shoes are killing me".
Imagery	Language which facilitates the readers ability to imagine/visualise what is being described. This language is related to the senses of taste, touch, sight, smell and sound.	"It was dark and dim in the forest". "He whiffed the aroma of brewed coffee".
Irony	The use of sarcasm which implies the opposite of what is being said.	"Thanks very much" in response to a negative situation (e.g. waiter spilling water).
Juxtaposition	Placing ideas, places and characters side by side to allow for comparisons and contrasts to be made.	"Beggars can't be choosers". "You can't teach an old dog new tricks".
Metaphor	A descriptive technique which compares one thing to another, by saying they share similar qualities.	"Life is a rollercoaster". "This is the icing on the cake".
Onomatopoeia	A word used to describe the sound it makes.	"Bang", "Crash", "Pop".
Oxymoron	When two words with opposite meanings are used together.	"Bitter sweet".
Personification	Giving an object or idea human qualities.	"The thunder grumbled like an old man". "She did not realise that opportunity was knocking at her door".
Repetition	Repeating a word, phrase or sentence to emphasise a point.	"You must fight for the life of your people, your family and your country".
Rhyme	When words end with the same sound at the end of each line in a poem.	"You're a poet and you didn't even know it".
Sarcasm	The use of words that have an opposite meaning to what the writer intends, usually to insult or amuse.	"I'm so happy the teacher gave me all this homework right before the school holidays".
Simile	A phrase which shows similarities between two things. This technique usually uses words such as "like" or "as".	"As cool as a cucumber".
Symbolism	The use of objects or colours to represent an abstract idea.	Object - Dove = Peace Ladder = An upward journey Colour - Red = Love Green = Envy
Tone	The overall feeling created or felt when reading a text, established through the writer's voice.	Sadness, playful, solemn, comic, funny.

