

Allegory	narrative that acts as an extended metaphor in which persons, abstract ideas, or events represent not only themselves on the literal level, but they also stand for something else on the symbolic level. An allegorical reading usually involves moral or spiritual concepts that may be more significant than the actual, literal events described in a narrative. Typically, an allegory involves the interaction of multiple symbols, which together create a moral, spiritual, or even political meaning. The act of interpreting a story as if each object in it had an allegorical meaning is called allegoresis .
Alliteration	Starting three or more words with the same sound. An example of this would be 'The crazy crackling crops.' The three words don't have to have the exact same beginning to have this effect.
Allusion	A casual reference in literature to a person, place, event, or another passage of literature, often without explicit identification.
Analogue	A story that contains similar characters, situations, settings, or verbal echoes to those found in a different story. Sometimes analogues reveal that one version was adopted from or inspired by another, or that both tales originate in a lost, older text.
Antithesis	(plural: antitheses): Using opposite phrases in close conjunction - "I burn and I freeze," or "Her character is white as sunlight, black as midnight." The best antitheses express their contrary ideas in a balanced sentence.
Assonance	a repetition of vowel sounds within syllables with changing consonants. This is also used in many different circumstances. One would be 'tilting at windmills.' Notice the vowels within each syllable sound the same.
Caesura	A pause separating phrases within lines of poetry--an important part of poetic rhythm . The term <i>caesura</i> comes from the Latin "a cutting" or "a slicing."
Cliché	An expression that has been used so often that it has become trite and sometimes boring. Example: Many hands make light work.
Emotive	Creates an emotion
Enjambment	A line having no pause or end punctuation but having uninterrupted grammatical meaning continuing into the next line.
Idiom	peculiar to itself either grammatically (as no, it wasn't me) or in having a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meanings of its elements (as Monday week for "the Monday a week after next Monday")
Hyperbole	An exaggeration that is so dramatic that no one would believe the statement is true. Tall tales are hyperboles. He was so hungry, he ate that whole cornfield for lunch, stalks and all.
Metaphor	A metaphor is a word or phrase used one way to mean another. Metaphors are sometimes hard to spot and take some thinking to figure out, but they give writers more power to express their thoughts about a certain situation. One famous case where a metaphor is used is within 'The Raven' by Edgar Allen Poe. In fact, not only is it found within the story, the story itself is a metaphor of memory and the constant reminder of the narrator's loss.
Onomatopoeia	a word imitating a sound (buzz, moo, beep)
Open syllable	Any syllable ending in a vowel, like the word <i>tree</i> .
Oxymoron/ paradox	Using contradiction in a manner that oddly makes sense on a deeper level. Simple or joking examples include such oxymora as <i>jumbo shrimp</i> , <i>sophisticated rednecks</i> , and <i>military intelligence</i> . The richest literary oxymora seem to reveal a deeper truth through their contradictions. "without laws, we can have no freedom."
Para-rhyme	Wilfred Owen's term for half-rhyme - <i>years / yours</i> and <i>tigress / progress</i>
Personification	A figure of speech in which human characteristics are given to an animal or an object. Example: My teddy bear gave me a hug
Rhyme	Rhyming is probably the most well-known technique used. However unlike popular belief, it does not need to be within a poem to make it a poem. It is what it is.. a technique.
Sibilance	any hissing sound made with a groove down the center of the tongue – sizzling sausages
Simile	Uses the words "like" or "as" to compare one object or idea with another to suggest they are alike (busy as a bee). A paradigm of this would be 'The milk tasted like pickles.'
Stanza	An arrangement of lines of verse in a pattern usually repeated throughout the poem. Typically, each stanza has a fixed number of verses or lines, a prevailing meter, and a consistent rhyme scheme. A stanza may be a subdivision of a poem, or it may constitute the entire poem.
Syllable	
Symbol	A word, place, character, or object that means something beyond what it is on a literal level. For instance, consider the stop sign. It is literally a metal octagon painted red with white streaks. However, everyone on American roads will be safer if we understand that this object also represents the act of coming to a complete stop
Syntax	The standard word order and sentence structure of a language, as opposed to diction (the actual choice of words) or content (the meaning of individual words).