




Language Techniques Reference Sheet

| Technique | Definition | Example |
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| Adjective | A describing word used to modify nouns and pronouns. | The wise grandma drank sweet tea. |
| Adverb | A word used to modify verbs in terms of place, time, manner, circumstance, degree or cause. | He promised to be there . Get it done now ! She sings beautifully . They accidentally ran into each other. She is very happy! It works, although badly. |
| Alliteration | The repetition of a consonant letter or sound at the beginning of two or more words in close succession. | F ootball f orwards f low through g rowing g roups of g rown men. |
| Allusion | A reference within a text to a historical, literary or biblical character, place or event. | He was a good samaritan and helped the old woman carry her bags. (This refers to the biblical story of 'The Good Samaritan'.) |
| Assonance | The repetition of vowel sounds. | He cho se to place a ro se between his to es. |
| Cliché | A common, overused expression that no longer has any force. | Time will tell. Fit as a fiddle. |
| Conjunctions | Joining words. | and, but, or, yet, for, nor, so |
| Foreshadowing | The deliberate repetition of a theme or motif to suggest the climatic events of a text. | The repetitive occurrence of the colour red throughout a story can hint at a future death. |

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| Hyperbole <i>(Hi-per-bol-ee)</i> | A deliberate exaggeration used to emphasise a point in a strong way. | <i>It took forever to climb that hill!</i> |
| Idioms | Odd, everyday expressions that have different meanings to their literal form. | <i>'It's raining cats and dogs' simply means it is raining heavily.</i> |
| Imagery | Describing in terms of the five senses: sight, sound, smell, taste and touch. | <i>The air was thick with sweat as he opened the grey locker. He reached for the cold bottle on the shelf, which let out a soft hiss as he turned the cap. The tingling sensation of fizzy cola flowing over his tongue was refreshing.</i> |
| Irony | Where the intended meaning is the opposite of what is being expressed. | <i>'Shorty' being chosen as the nickname for a very tall person.</i> |
| Juxtaposition | When two ideas are placed side by side in order to compare. | <i>The nobles feasted throughout their plentiful banquet while the servants ate leftovers in their crowded quarters.</i> |
| Metaphor | The direct comparison of one thing to another, avoiding 'like' or 'as'. | <i>He is a lion in battle.</i> |
| Metonymy | The substitution of one word to stand in for another. | <i>'The pen is mightier than the sword.'</i> <i>Words are powerful and can do more harm than physical weapons.</i> |
| Motif | The recurring structure and development of an image throughout a text. | <i>Water appearing in different forms throughout a text that symbolically ends with a character who jumps in a river to save a life.</i> |

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| Noun | A name, place or thing. | The young girl ran to the grocery store to buy a new book . |
| Onomatopoeia | The use of a word that imitates the sound it represents. | <i>buzz, hiss, pop</i> |
| Oxymoron | The use of two words that appear to contradict each other. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A wise fool once said... 2. Parting is such sweet sorrow. 3. It was pretty ugly. |
| Paradox | A statement that seems contradictory but often expresses a deeper truth. | 'All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others.' - George Orwell, 'Animal Farm'. |
| Parody | The exaggerated imitation of a serious text. | <p>The famous album cover for The Beatles' 'Abbey Road' has been parodied a number of times by replacing the band members with characters and objects for a humorous effect.</p>  |
| Personification | Giving human qualities to non-human things (animals, objects or ideas). | 'Now it is Loneliness who comes to visit at night / Instead of sleep, to sit at my bed.' - Katherine Mansfield, 'Loneliness'. |



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| Pronoun | A word used to identify a person, often replacing the noun so as to sound less repetitive. | <i>When Sarah and Daniel went outside, they raced all the way to the swings.</i> |
| Proverb | A saying that expresses truth based on experience and long observation, but often holds another meaning. | <i>'All that glitters is not gold.'</i> - William Shakespeare, 'The Merchant of Venice'. |
| Pun | When a word is deliberately used in two different senses at the one time. | <i>He wondered why the ball was getting bigger... and then it hit him.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. He finally realised why it was getting bigger.2. The ball literally hit him. |
| Rhetoric | The ability to use language to persuade and influence others. | <i>Speeches given by speakers such as:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Martin Luther King Jr - 'I Have A Dream'.2. John F. Kennedy - 'Inaugural Address.' |
| Rhetorical Question | A statement in the form of a question that requires no answer but encourages the audience to ponder it. | <i>A boy arrives home late and his mother says, "What time do you call this?"</i> |
| Satire | The use of irony, sarcasm and innuendo to ridicule by exposing human weakness. Similar to parody, but it incorporates an underlying seriousness. | <i>A comedy show in the style of a news program, sharing current news items in a humorous way to highlight obvious flaws in our society and political system.</i> |
| Simile | The comparison of one thing to another, using 'like' or 'as'. | <i>He is like a lion in battle.</i> |
| Symbolism | Symbols within a text that represent an idea or emotion. | <i>Peace is often depicted with a white dove.</i> |

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| Theme | The central idea in a text. | <i>Identity and belonging are common concepts in Australian literary works such as poetry and novels.</i> |
| Tone | The general atmosphere of a text, often reflecting the author's attitude towards the subject. | <i>Does the text demonstrate a sarcastic tone? Is it happy, aggressive, bored, elated? Can you tell how the author feels about it?</i> |
| Verb | An action word. | <i>I ran to the front of the crowd to see the band perform.</i> |

