

Stylistic Devices (also called Rhetorical Devices)

G-3

techniques or tools used in text or speech designed to have a certain effect on an audience

Stylistic Device	Definition	Examples from the poem "Identity" by Julio Noboa Polanco
denotation	The dictionary definition of a word	
connotation	thoughts, images & associations that come to mind (for most people) related to a particular word	
IMAGERY	Language that creates a detailed visual picture	
SENSORY LANGUAGE	language that appeals to our sense of smell, sound, sight, touch or taste	
Opposites / contrasting language	Words, images and ideas that are opposites	.
Metaphor	A direct comparison between two seemingly unlike things	
Simile	A comparison between two seemingly unlike things using like or as	
Personification	Giving living or human traits to objects, animals, plants, ideas, etc.	
Absolutes	words that indicate no exception such as always, only, never, none, all, nothing, must, everyone, etc.)	
Repetition	The author's use of specific words, phrases, ideas, images or sounds multiple times	
Symbol	Something that represents something else beyond its dictionary definition	
Hyperbole	A huge exaggeration	

Stylistic Device	Definition	Examples
Diction	An author's word choice	
Rhetorical questions	Questions that are not meant to be responded to because they imply or hint at the answer	
Sentence Length	Sentence length varies from short to medium to long.	
Sentence Structure	The way words are ordered in a sentence and how a sentence is arranged grammatically.	
Punctuation	The deliberate use of certain punctuation beyond its grammatical purpose to create a certain effect or impact.	
Allusion	a reference in literature to a well-known person, place, event or another text (i.e. The Bible)	
Form	The overall structure or shape of a work, which frequently follows an established design.	
Stanzas & line breaks	Poems are divided up into sections called stanzas. Line breaks refer to where one line stops in a poem and the next one starts.	
Enjambment	In a poem, a word or phrase that starts on one line and runs over into the next one	
Alliteration	A series of words in a row that start with the same consonant sound (Example: Sally sells seashells by the sea shore.)	
Onomatopoeia	A word that is a sound (Example: animal noises like buzz, quack, chirp, peep, meow, moo, roar, oink, hiss; words like hiccup, boom, thud, clap, etc.)	
End rhyme	The repetition of words with the same ending sound occurring at the end of lines	
Rhythm	The musical quality of a poem created by stressed and unstressed syllables.	
Rhyme scheme	The pattern of rhyme (usually end rhyme, but not always). Involves using letters to indicate which lines rhyme; lines designated with the same letter all rhyme with each other (AA, BB, CC).	

