

List of some useful literary terms for the analysis of poetic devices

anaphora	repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive lines or sentences example: <i>Thou art ... (= You are)</i> <i>Thou art...</i>
alliteration	Successive words that begin with the same letter or sound example: <i>Singing a song of sorrow</i>
comparison	establishing a relationship between two things example: <i>Roses are more beautiful than her</i>
contrast	used to show that two things are different example: <i>life ↔ death</i>
metaphor	an image, a description of s.th./s.b. in an imaginative, unusual way to compare two things and to show that they have qualities in common example: <i>She has a heart of stone; Life is a stage</i>
personification	giving non-living objects human traits example: <i>The storm slept for two days.</i>
rhetorical question	a question that already implies the answer example: <i>Do you think I'm stupid?</i>
simile	a comparison using words like/as example: <i>He had a face like a mask</i>
symbol	replacing/ expressing s.th. by using the word that represents a more general quality example: <i>white = symbol of innocence, purity</i> <i>rose = symbol of love</i>