*Figurative language communicates ideas beyond the literal meaning of the words.*

**SIMILE**—making comparison between 2 unlike things using “like” or “as”

**Examples:** She’s as fresh as a daisy. He was as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. “My love is like a red, red rose.”—Robert Burns

**Why Writers Use It:** Writers use similes to explain things, to express emotion, and to make their writing more vivid and entertaining.

**METAPHOR**—making direct comparison between 2 unlike things

**Examples:** She’s a fresh daisy on a spring morning. He drowned in a sea of grief.

**Why Writers Use It:** Metaphors can add interest and creativity. They can make an idea more memorable or help us look at something from a new angle.

**HYPERBOLE**—truth is exaggerated for emphasis or effect

**Example:**  I’m so hungry I could eat a horse.

**Why Writers Use It:** Even though the statement might not be exactly true, hyperbole can create emphasis or also make something sound funny.

**PERSONIFICATION**—applying human characteristics to an object, animal, or idea

**Example:** The stars danced around playfully in the moonlit sky.

**Why Writers Use It:** Personification can make non-human objects and ideas more relatable, since it is easier for humans to relate to another person than, say, a mop. It can also make objects or ideas seem more vivid.

**SYMBOLISM**—person, place, or object that stands for something beyond itself

**Examples:** Purple is a royal color. Roses often symbolize romance.

**Why Writers Use it:** Symbols can communicate deeper meanings or alternative meanings than are apparent on the surface. They reward careful readers with special insights.

**IMAGERY**—words or phrases used to create sensory images

**Examples:** The giant tree was ablaze with orange, red, and yellow leaves that were beginning to drift towards the ground.

**Why Writers Use it:** Images can often more vividly express a thought or bring out an emotion.

**ONOMATOPOEIA**—words that sound like what they mean

**Examples:** splish-splash, boing, buzz, whoosh

**Why Writers Use it:** It is often difficult to describe sounds. Onomatopoeia can also make a story more lively and interesting.

**ALLITERATION**—repetition of sounds, especially consonants, at the beginning of words

**Example:** “a **t**wenty **t**on **t**error on **t**op of **T**okyo **t**owers with **t**wo **t**itanium **t**entacles”—NoCanDo

**Why Writers Use it:**It can help connect ideas, make sentences memorable or sound musical. When overused, it can be cloying or irritating.

**ALLUSION**—hints or reference to something the audience should be familiar with

**Examples:** Don’t act like a **Romeo** in front of her. The rise in poverty will unlock the **Pandora ’s Box** of crime.

**Why Writers Use it:** Allusions can help people see unique connections between two ideas. The reference can help the audience better understand a subject. Allusions can also be surprising and funny.