

Creative Writing II

More Terms to Know

Imagery

- A literary device that refers to the use of figurative language to evoke a sensory experience or create a picture with words for a reader.
- By utilizing effective descriptive language and figures of speech, writers appeal to a reader's senses (sight, taste, smell, touch, and sound) as well as internal emotion and feelings.

- Example:

- From E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*

"The barn was very large. It was very old. It smelled of hay and it smelled of manure. It smelled of the perspiration of tired horses and the wonderful sweet breath of patient cows. It often had a sort of peaceful smell as though nothing bad could happen ever again in the world. It smelled of grain and of harness dressing and of axle grease and of rubber boots and of new rope."

Hyperbole

- A figure of speech and literary device that creates heightened effect through deliberate exaggeration.
- Hyperbole is often a boldly overstated or exaggerated claim or statement that adds emphasis without the intention of being literally true.
- In literature, hyperbole is often used for serious, comic, or ironic effects.

- Example:

- From Dave Barry's "Revenge of the Pork Person"

"A man can have a belly you could house commercial aircraft in and a grand total of eight greasy strands of hair, which he grows real long and combs across the top of his head so that he looks, when viewed from above, like an egg in the grasp of a giant spider, plus this man can have B.O. to the point where he interferes with radio transmissions, and he will still be convinced that, in terms of attractiveness, he is borderline Don Johnson."

Connotation

- Connotation refers to a meaning that is implied by a word apart from the thing which it describes explicitly (example: olive branch = peace).
- Words carry cultural and emotional associations or meanings, in addition to their literal meanings or denotations.
- Words may have positive or negative connotations that depend upon the social, cultural, and personal experiences of individuals.
 - For example, the words *childish*, *childlike* and *youthful* have the same denotative, but different connotative, meanings. *Childish* and *childlike* have a negative connotation, as they refer to the immature behavior of a person. Whereas, *youthful* implies that a person is lively and energetic.
- Just for understanding: Denotation refers to the dictionary definition of a word

Tone

- A literary device that reflects the writer's attitude toward the subject matter or audience of a literary work.
- By conveying this attitude through tone, the writer creates a particular relationship with the reader that influences the intention and meaning of the written words.
- Writers use several techniques to convey tone: including word choice, figurative language, punctuation, and even sentence structure.
- This helps to establish a narrative voice so that the reader not only understands the words as they are presented in a work but also their meanings, as intended by the writer, character, or narrator.
- Example:
 - From P.G. Wodehouse's *Very Good, Jeeves*
 - "Every young man starting life ought to know how to cope with an angry swan, so I will briefly relate the proper procedure. You begin by picking up the raincoat which somebody has dropped; and then, judging the distance to a nicety, you simply shove the raincoat over the bird's head; and, taking the boat-hook which you have prudently brought with you, you insert it underneath the swan and heave."
 - Let us discuss why this is a humorous tone...

Theme

- A theme is a universal idea, lesson, or message explored throughout a work of literature.
- A key characteristic of literary themes is their universality.
 - Meaning that themes are ideas that not only apply to the specific characters and events of a book or play, but also express broader truths about human experience that readers can apply to their own lives.
- Example:
 - In John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*, the story looks at teenagers who must come to terms with their terminal illness
 - Theme Topic: Death
 - Theme Statement: Having a terminal illness causes one to rethink their priorities in life.