

Comparison and figurative meaning

Device	Effect	Analysis
Metaphor	Transfers qualities between unlike elements to reveal perspective and deepen meaning	Identify both elements being compared and explain how the comparison shapes tone, characterization, or theme
Simile	Makes explicit comparisons to clarify or emphasize specific qualities	Identify the comparison and explain what it highlights and why it matters
Personification	Attributes human qualities to nonhuman elements to shape tone and emotional response	Identify the qualities assigned and explain how they influence interpretation
Symbol	Represents a larger idea through a concrete element within the text	Explain what the symbol suggests in context and how it contributes to meaning
Allusion	References external ideas or texts to add layers of meaning	Connect the reference to its effect within the passage rather than simply naming it

Contrast and contradiction

Device	Effect	Analysis
Juxtaposition	Places contrasting elements side by side to highlight differences or create tension	Identify what is being contrasted and explain how the contrast contributes to meaning or conflict
Antithesis	Presents opposing ideas in parallel structure to sharpen contrast	Identify the opposing elements and explain how their contrast contributes to meaning
Irony	Creates a gap between expectation and reality to introduce complexity or tension	Identify the discrepancy and explain how it affects tone or the reader's understanding
Paradox	Presents contradiction to reveal a deeper or more complex truth	Explain what the contradiction suggests and how it contributes to the passage's meaning

Word choice, imagery, and syntax

Device	Effect	Analysis
Diction	Establishes tone and conveys attitude through word choice and connotation	Examine specific words and explain how their connotations shape perspective or meaning
Imagery	Creates sensory experience that shapes mood and guides interpretation	Translate description into effect and explain how the imagery influences tone or thematic development
Syntax	Controls pacing, emphasis, and the flow of ideas within the passage	Explain how sentence structure influences tone, highlights key ideas, or shapes the reader's experience

Emphasis and repetition

Device	Effect	Analysis
Hyperbole	Uses exaggeration to intensify emotion or emphasize significance	Explain what is exaggerated and how that exaggeration shapes tone or meaning
Motif	Repetition of an element builds meaning and reinforces patterns or themes	Track recurrence and explain how repetition contributes to the development of meaning
Anaphora	Repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive lines or clauses creates emphasis and rhythm	Identify what is repeated and explain how the repetition reinforces ideas or tone