

Assonance—Similar vowel sound in stressed syllables that end with different consonant sounds.

Duty of the Student

Edward Anthony

It is the duty of the student

Without exception to be prudent.

If smarter than his teacher, tact

Demands that he conceal the fact.

Assonance:

***West Beast East Beast* by Dr. Seuss**

Upon an island hard to reach,
The East Beast sits upon his beach.
Upon the west beach sits the West Beast.
Each beach beast thinks he's the best beast.
Which beast is best?...Well, I thought at first,
That the East was best and the West was worst.
Then I looked again from the west to the east
And I liked the beast on the east beach least.

Alliteration is the repetition of beginning consonant sound usually in a line of poetry and sometimes prose.

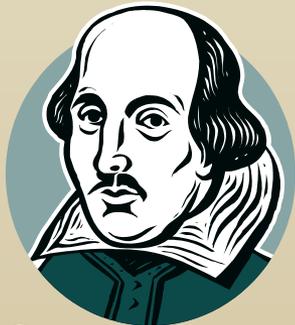
Silver

Walter de la Mare

“Slowly, silently, now the moon

Walks the night in her silver shoon;”

The play *Romeo and Juliet* has many examples of various literary tools including alliteration.



Shakespeare

Alliteration



The following are all examples of alliteration:

“From forth the fatal loins of these two foes; A pair of star-cross’d lovers take their life.” (From the prologue to Act 1. This is an example of alliteration with the “f” and “l.”)

“Now old desire doth in his death-bed lie,” (Spoken by the chorus in the prologue of Act 2. The alliteration is the “d” sound.)

“The day to cheer and night's dank dew to dry,” (Spoken by Friar Lawrence in Act 2 at the beginning of Scene 3. This example shows four repetitions of “d.”)

An **allusion** makes reference to an historical or literary person, place, or event with which the reader is assumed to be familiar. Many works of prose and poetry contain allusions to the Bible or to classical mythology.

“Raymond’s Run” (Lit book 29)

“The big kids call me Mercury cause I’m the swiftest thing in the neighborhood.”

Mercury is the messenger god in Roman mythology, known for his speed.

Can you find another allusion on page 31?

Colloquial—the use of slang or informalities in speech and writing.

Raymond's Run (Lit Book 29)

“And I don't have to earn my pocket money by hustling....”

“And I don't play the dozens or believe in standing around with somebody in my face doing a lot of talking.”

Colloquial language

This computer program has a **glitch**.

Let's **crack open a bottle** for his birthday.

My car was **totaled** in the accident with the garbage truck.

He was **benched** during the basketball playoffs.

He **blew** all his  money gambling.



I think I am going **bonkers**.

That is total **mush** and you know it.

Do you know where the **can** is?

It is time to **split** and go see the movie.



Denotation—the exact or dictionary meaning of a word without its emotional or suggestive associations.

walk \wok\ vb – to move or cause to move along on foot ~~usually at a natural unhurried gait~~

This definition has NO emotional or suggestive meaning.

Connotation—the emotional suggestions behind a word, the implications, inferences, or suggestive power of words, phrases, or figures of speech

- skip
- meander
- stroll
- scurry
- promenade
- tramp
- move in leaps and bounds, implies happiness
- no clear direction,
- at a leisurely pace, implies enjoyment
- To move briskly, implies getting away
- To show off or to be on display
- To walk heavily or forcefully, implies anger or suggests destruction

Not all words have connotative meanings

Dialect—a form of language spoken by people in a particular region or group. Dialects differ in pronunciations, grammar, and word choice. Writers use dialect to make their characters seem realistic.

“A sad look came into Eliza’s eyes as she said: ‘You’d bettah not go, Patsy; dem hosses’ll kill you yit, des lak dey did yo’ pappy’” (195).

“Finish of Patsy Barnes”

~*Paul Lawrence Dunbar*

Diction—the choice and arrangement of words in phrases and images or in larger units such as poetic lines and sentences.

- Word choice
- Use of dialect
- Repetition
- Colloquialism
- Imagery

Hyperbole—A figure of speech in which conscious (extreme) exaggeration is used without the intent of literal persuasion.

- My grandmother is as old as the hills.
- Your suitcase weighs a ton!
- She is as heavy as an elephant!
- I am dying of shame.
- I am trying to solve a million issues these days

Idiom—an expression whose meaning is different from the sum of the meanings of its individual words. The words in an idiom cannot be interpreted literally. A literal interpretation is often confusing or comical

“Raymond’s Run”

~Toni Cade Bambara

“And I’m smiling to beat the band cause...” (37).

Every cloud has its silver lining.

Kirk: If we play our cards right, we may be able to find out when those whales are being released.

Spock: How will playing cards help?

(Captain James T. Kirk and Spock in Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home, 1986)

- Here, “if we play our cards right” means “if we avail our opportunities rightly”.

Imagery — Words and phrases create vivid experiences for the reader that can be detected through the use of the senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch.

“Drummer Boy of Shiloh”

~Ray Bradbury

“The man’s knees cracked as he bent still closer. He smelled as all feathers should smell, of salt-sweat, tobacco, horse and boot leather, and the earth he walked upon. He had many eyes. No, not eyes, brass buttons that watched the boy” (203).

hear, smell, see,

irony—the use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of the literal meaning

“Up the Slide”

~Jack London

“If he could not get down [the mountain] by going down, there only remained to him to get down by going up” (317).

- I posted a video on YouTube about how boring and useless YouTube is.
- The name of Britain’s biggest dog was “Tiny”.
- You laugh at a person who slipped stepping on a banana peel and the next thing you know, you slipped too.
- “Oh great! Now you have broken my new camera.”

Irony: the general name given to literary techniques that involve surprising, interesting, or amusing contradictions



verbal irony—words are used to suggest the opposite of their usual meanings.

dramatic irony—there is a contradiction between what a character thinks and what the reader or audience knows to be true

situational irony—an event occurs that directly contradicts the expectations of the characters, the reader, or the audience.

Oxymoron—contradiction; two contradictory terms or ideas are used together

“Raymond’s Run”

~Toni Cade Bambara

“Then in music class [Gretchen] always lets herself get bumped around so she falls accidentally on purpose onto the piano stool...” (30-31).

- open secret
- tragic comedy
- seriously funny
- awfully pretty
- foolish wisdom
- original copies
- liquid gas

Metaphor—a comparison between two unlike things that states one is the other.

“Raymond’s Run”

~Toni Cade Bambara

“‘I always win cause I’m the best,’ I say straight at Gretchen who is, as far as I am concerned, the only one talking in this ventriloquist-dummy routine” (32).

Gretchen is the ventriloquist.

Rosie and Mary Louise are the dummies.

Simile—a comparison between two unlike things using the words *like* or *as*.

“Raymond’s Run”

~Toni Cade Bambara

“[Mr Pearson] looks around the park for Gretchen *like* a periscope in a submarine movie” (34).

This image is reinforced since Mr. Pearson is a on stilts and sticks up above the crowd the way a periscope would stick up above the water.

Onomatopoeia—Onomatopoeia is the use of words which by their pronunciation suggest their meaning. The words literally represent sound. The use of a word or words which imitate the sound they stand for.

- meow, moo, neigh, tweet, oink, baa
- The buzzing bee flew away.
- The sack fell into the river with a splash.
- The books fell on the table with a loud thump.
- He looked at the roaring sky.
- The rustling leaves kept me awake.

Personification—Personification gives an inanimate object characteristics of life.

“Drummer Boy of Shiloh”

~*Ray Bradbury*

“Now and again the boy heard a vast wind come up that gently stirred the air” (201).

He had many eyes. No, not eyes, brass buttons that watched the boy” (203).

Tone—Tone is the attitude a writer, narrator, or speaker takes toward a subject. It might be humorous, serious, bitter, angry, or detached among other possibilities.

“Raymond’s Run”

~Toni Cade Bambara

“Mary Louise who used to be a friend of mine when she first moved to Harlem from Baltimore and got beat up by everybody till I took up for her on account of her mother and my mother used to sing in the same choir when they were young girls, but people ain’t grateful, so now she hangs out with the new girl Gretchen and talks about me like a dog; and Rosie who is fat as I am skinny and has a big mouth where Raymond is concerned and is too stupid to know that there is not a big deal of difference between herself and Raymond and that she can’t afford to throw stones” (31).

Tone: bitter, angry, resentful

Shift—a change in tone, mood, setting, or characterization that affects the movement or direction of the selection.

“Raymond’s Run”

~Toni Cade Bambara

“Then I hear Raymond **yanking at the fence** to call me and I wave **shush him**, but he keeps **rattling the fence** like a **gorilla in a cage** like in them gorilla movies, but then like a dancer or something he starts climbing up **nice and easy** but **very fast**. And it **occurs to me**, watching how **smoothly** he climbs hand over hand and remembering how he looked running with his arms down to his side and with the wind pulling his mouth back and his teeth showing and all, **it occurred** to me that **Raymond would make a very fine runner**” (37).

Setting—the time and place of the action. The setting includes all the details of a place and time—the year, the time of day, even the weather. The place may be a specific country, state, region, community, neighborhood, building, institution, or home. Details such as dialect, clothing, customs, and modes of transportation are often used to establish the setting.

- The “Drummer Boy of Shiloh” by Ray Bradbury takes place at Shiloh. Over 23 thousand men were killed or injured in this early Civil War battle. Think about how the following setting details add to the story.
- Darkness
- Spring
- Devastating casualties
- Not clear whether Confederate or Union
- Young age of recruits
- Inexperience of soldiers

Symbol—Symbol is any object, happening, person, or place which stands not only for itself but also for something else, especially a big idea.

Retrieved Reformation

~O. Henry

“Hardly believing she [Annabel] had heard him aright, she unpinned the bud from the bosom of her dress, and placed it in his hand. Jimmy stuffed it into his vest pocket, threw off his coat and pulled up his shirt sleeves. With the act Ralph D. Spencer passed away and Jimmy Valentine took his place” (49).

This scene symbolizes....

“Raymond’s Run”

~Toni Cade Bambara

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A **theme** is a message a writer expresses about life in a work of literature. It is a writer's perception about life or humanity shared with a reader. Themes are seldom stated directly and may reveal themselves only through careful reading and analysis.

“Raymond’s Run”

~Toni Cade Bambara

Ideas

- self-centered
- hatred
- acceptance
- understanding
- handicaps

Possible themes

- When you are self-centered it is difficult to see the potential in others.
- Hatred toward others will prevent one from seeing the good in others.
- One must accept others to build true friends.
- Understanding others leads to acceptance.

Understatement—the deliberate playing down of an emotion, thought, judgment, or situation. When emotion is involved, an author (or speaker) will sometimes employ understatement to imply that the emotion is too powerful or too vast to express. The lack of stress creates an ironic difference between what the author actually says and what the circumstances would really allow him to say.

“Raymond’s Run”

~Toni Cade Bambara

Squeaky describes Cynthia Proctor using understatement: “If there’s a test tomorrow, she’ll say something like, ‘Oh, I guess I’ll play handball this afternoon and watch television tonight,’ just to let you know she ain’t thinking about the test. Or like last week when she won the spelling bee for the millionth time, ‘A good thing you got ‘receive,’ Squeaky, I would have got it wrong. I completely forgot about the spelling bee’” (30).