

LITERARY TERMS CHEAT SHEET

HELPING TO MAKE YOUR SEARCH FOR SOMETHING TO SAY A BIT MORE FRUITFUL!



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY	SUBJECT TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
ESSENTIAL ↓ SOPHISTICATED	Simile	A comparison of one thing to another, stating that one thing <u>is like</u> another thing.	<i>'our hands... folded, one over the other, like a pair of wings settling after flight'</i>
	Metaphor	A comparison of one thing to another, stating that one thing <u>is</u> another thing which it can't be.	<i>'The boy is Ignorance. The girl is Want.'</i>
	Extended Metaphor	A comparison between two unlike things that continues throughout a series of sentences in a paragraph or lines in a poem.	<i>'my thoughts do twine and bud about thee... oh my palm tree...'</i>
	Personification	When an object or animal is made to seem like it's doing something human.	<i>'I have no spur... but only vaulting ambition, which o'er leaps itself'</i>
	Repetition	Repeating a word or phrase more than once to emphasise an idea.	<i>'As good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew.'</i>
	Pathetic Fallacy	Using weather features to reflect or set the mood of a text.	<i>'The rain set early in to-night, the sullen wind was soon awake...'</i>
	Alliteration	The repetition of the same letter, especially at the beginning of words.	<i>'No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew...'</i>
	Assonance	The repetition of similar vowel sounds.	<i>'Too young maybe—but more's to do at harvest-time than bide and woo.'</i>
	Consonance	The repetition of similar consonant sounds.	<i>'Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail.'</i>
	Sibilance	The repetition of 's' sounds.	<i>'Look like th' innocent flower but be the serpent under't.'</i>
	Hyperbole	Deliberate exaggeration to emphasise an idea or point.	<i>'Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood Clean from my hand? No'</i>
	Allusion	A reference to another event, person, place or work of literature which is usually implied, providing another layer of meaning.	<i>'that blessed Star which led the Wise Men to a poor abode.'</i>
	Anaphora	Repetition of the same word or group of words at the beginning of successive clauses, sentences, or lines.	<i>'In secret we met— In silence I grieve...'</i>
	Anadiplosis	The repetition of the last word of one clause or sentence at the beginning of the next clause or sentence.	<i>'Fair is foul and foul is fair.'</i>