

## Rhetorical Strategies/Literary Devices

**motif**—recurring idea or element in a work of art

**style**—distinguishable or distinctive manner

**figurative language**—language employing figures of speech that cannot be taken only literally

metaphor/simile/hyperbole/personification/symbol

**contrast**—acknowledging differences

**comparison**—acknowledging similarities

**pacing**—a measured movement

**allegory**—a narrative or description having a second meaning beneath the surface

**cacophony**—discordant arrangement of sound

**connotation**—word suggestion

**denotation**—literal meaning

**logos** - appeal to reason (logic)

**ethos** - appeal to shared values or ethics

**pathos** - appeal to emotion

**epistrophe** - ending each item with same word or words (Laura cultivates beauty, Wendy flaunts it, Janet disregards it, and I worship it.)

**zeugma** - use of a single word to govern two or more words when applying them in different senses (She blew my nose and then she blew my mind; Bite into food and the reputation of your friends; He left his house and his wife.)

**diction** - choice of words to convey a given meaning, impression, or clarity (concrete diction)

**syntax** - sentence structure; the grammatical arrangement of words, phrases, clauses (parallel syntax)

**synecdoche** - a figure of speech in which a part is used for the whole ("wheels" for a car, "malt" for beer or ale, "brain" for a smart person)

**metonymy** - use of something closely related for the thing actually meant ("life is spilling" instead of blood is spilling, "crown" instead of king, "tongue" for language)

**concession**

alliteration

allusion

allusion

**ambiguity**

analogy

antagonist

**antithesis**

apostrophe

approaches

archetype

**argumentation**

assonance

asyndeton

blank verse

caesura

carpe diem

catharsis

**circular reasoning**

**claim**

classical unities

comedy

Comedy of Manners

conceit

couplet

**dense text**

dialogue

dream sequences

elegiac

elegy

English sonnet

enjambment  
**epithet**  
**euphemism**  
exaggeration  
extended metaphor  
**faulty premise**  
feminine rhyme  
flashback  
foot  
foreshadowing  
free verse  
genre  
hubris  
**humor**  
hyperbole  
imagery  
inversion  
**irony**  
Italian sonnet  
**juxtaposition**  
masculine rhyme  
metaphor  
meter  
near rhyme/slant rhyme  
onomatopoeia  
oxymoron  
paradox  
**paradox**  
parallelism  
parody  
personification  
point of view

polysyndeton  
protagonist  
quatrain  
realism  
regional dialect  
repetition  
rhyme  
romanticism  
**sarcasm**  
selection of detail  
setting  
simile  
soliloquy  
stream of consciousness  
subplot  
**syllogism**  
symbol  
symbolism  
terza rima  
**tone**  
tragedy  
tragic flaw  
**understatement**  
voice  
**warrant**  
  
**\*Those terms especially  
suited to analyzing or  
understanding argument are  
underlined**