



MY ABC BOOK  
OF

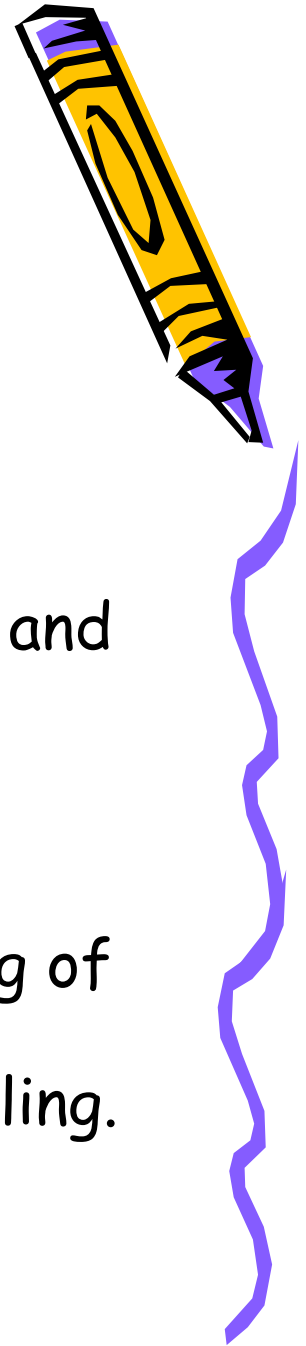
FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES

By  
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## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE DEFINITIONS

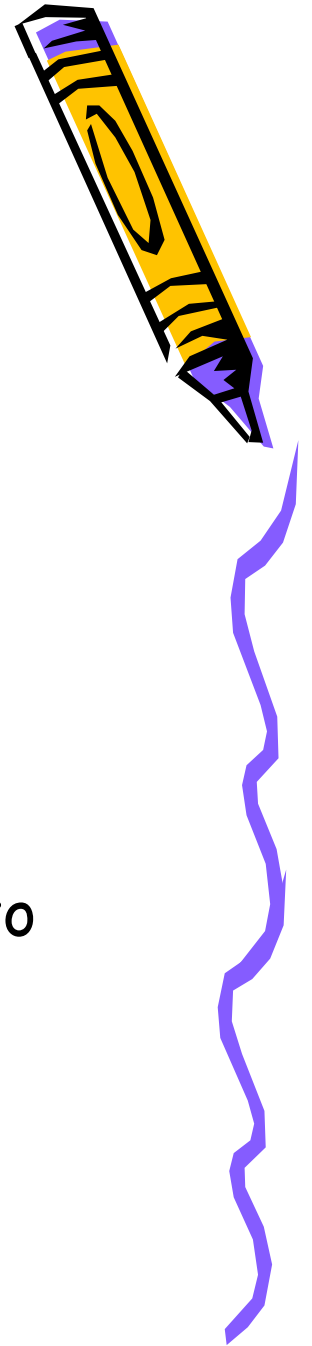
- A word,
- A phrase,
- A speech,
- A writing,  
that describes one thing in terms of another and is not meant to be understood on a literal or surface level.
- Expressions that stretch words beyond their literal meanings.
- Language that goes beyond the normal meaning of the words used.
- Language used to create special effect or feeling.



# USES OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES

Writers use figurative languages to:

- To heighten meanings.
- Add colors to meanings.
- State ideas in vivid and imaginative ways.
- Increase the breadth and subtlety of expressions.
- To draw attention to certain words or ideas, to imitate sounds,
- To create musical effects.



# A is for ALLITERATION

The repetition of the same consonant sounds in a sequence of words, usually at the beginning of a word.

Alliteration is based on the sounds of the letter, rather than the spelling of words.

Examples:

- Father Fred fried French fries.
- Sweet silly Sally sled down the stairs.
- Fragrant flowers, hot and heavy, dog days.
- Harry hurried home for a hamburger

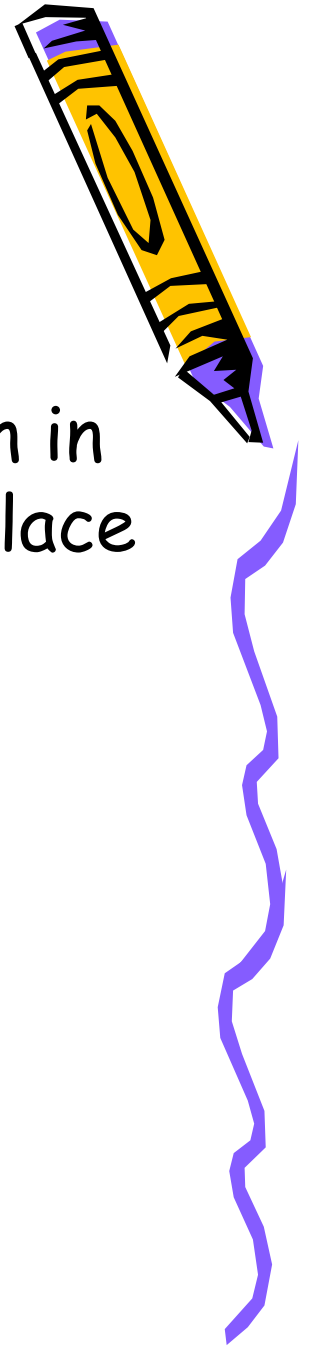


# B is for Bathos

Bathos is an abrupt, unintended transition in style from the exalted to the commonplace producing a humorous effect.

Example:

- A richly textured man who ... can be sentimental to the brink of bathos (Kenneth L. Woodward).

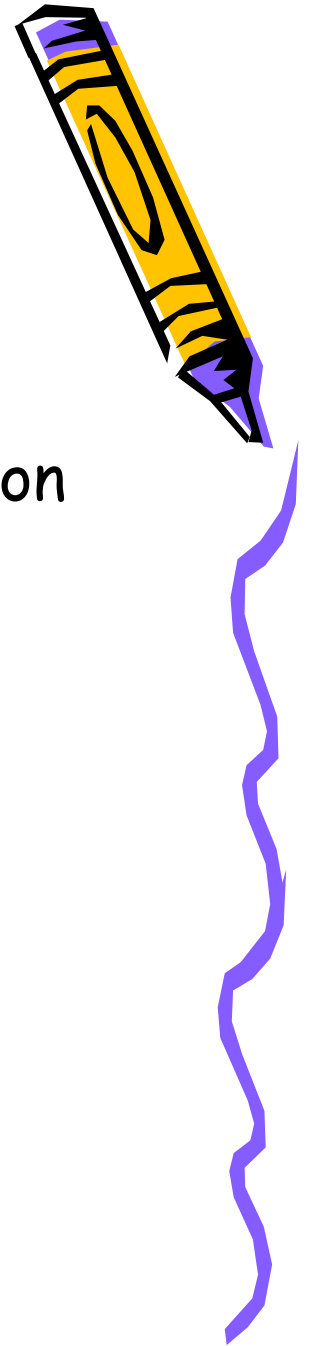


# C is for Cliche

A cliché is an overused idea, word, phrase, or expression that springs quickly to mind but soon bores the user and the audience because its freshness and clarity had worn off.

Examples:

- After all is said and done.
- Better late than never.
- Believe it or not.
- In a nutshell.
- See eye to eye.

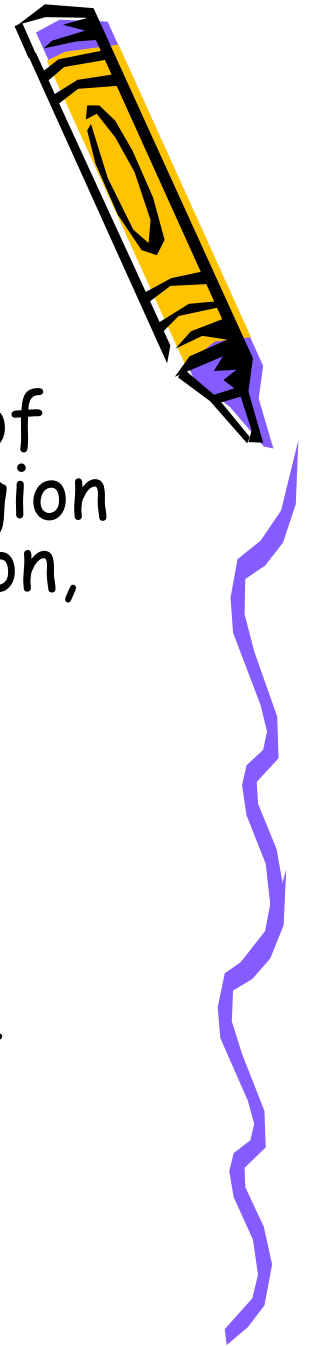


# D is for Dialect

Dialects are spoken by definable groups of people from a particular geographic region or group. Dialects differ in pronunciation, grammar, and word choice.

Examples:

- British English
- American English
- African English
- Standard English: The dialect used in formal writing, education and spoken by most TV and radio announcers.
- Ebonics is an African American dialect.

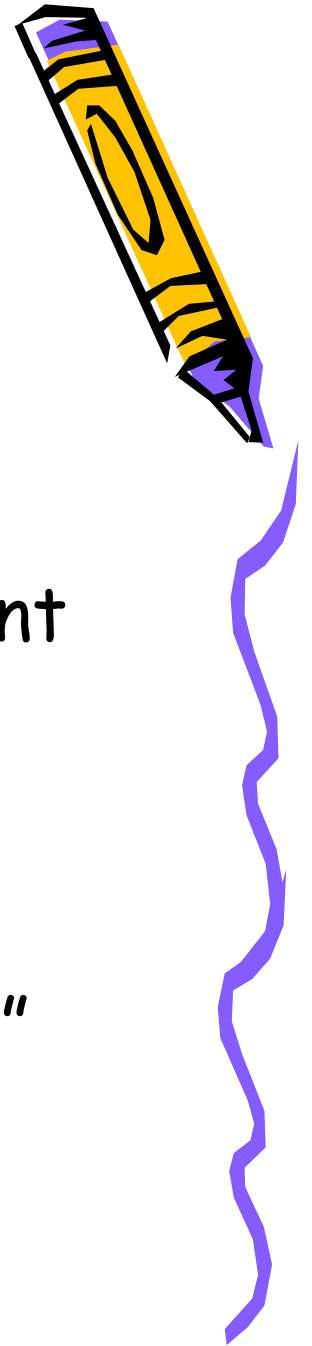


# E is for Euphemism

Euphemism is a word or phrase that is substituted for another because it is considered a less offensive or unpleasant way of saying something.

Examples:

- "Pass away" instead of "died."
- "Ethnic cleansing" instead of "genocide."



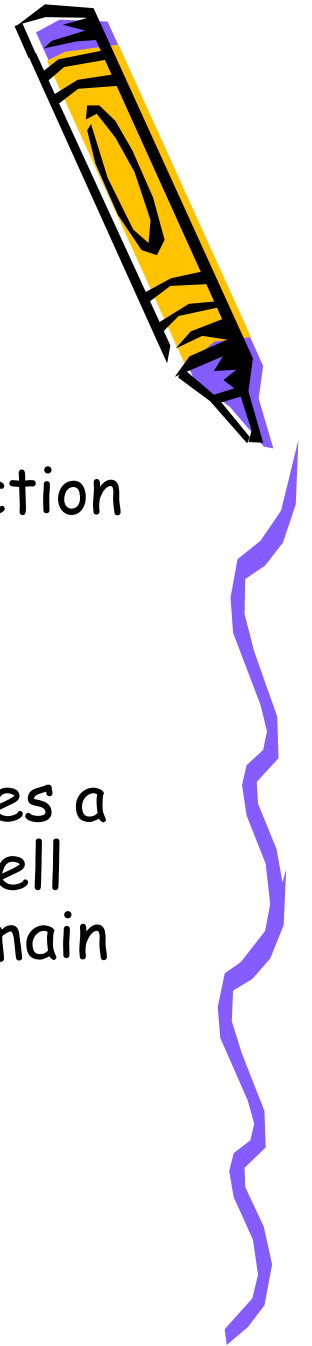


# F is for Flashback.

A scene in a movie, play, short story, novel, or narrative poem that interrupts the present action of the plot to "flash backward" and tell what happened at an earlier time.

Example:

- "The Demon Lover" by Elizabeth Bowen includes a flashback that describes Mrs. Drover's farewell to her fiancé twenty - five years before the main action of the story takes place.



# G is for Gothic.

A term used to describe literary works that contains primitive, medieval, wild, mysterious or natural elements.

Example:

- Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly's Frankenstein is one of the most widely known Gothic novels.

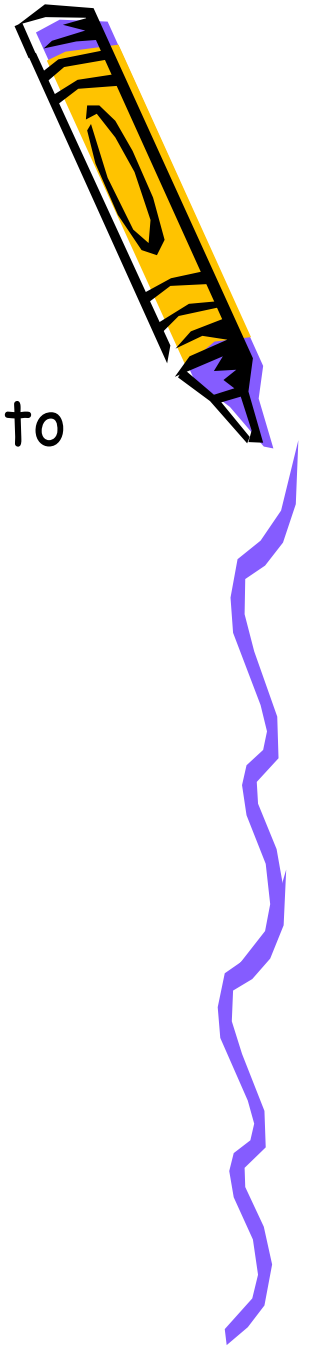


# H is for HYPERBOLE

Uses exaggerative words, phrase or statements to express strong emotion or to create a comic effect.

Examples:

- A limousine is as long as an ocean liner.
- It was 250 degrees in the shade.
- She ate every thing in the house.
- It is so hot out side that you could fry an egg on the sidewalk.
- Greg was very thirsty that he dries up the sea.



# I is for Idioms.

Idiom is a common expression that has acquired a meaning that differs from its literal meaning.

An idiom is usually understandable to a particular group of people.

Examples:

- Both Richy and Rosy got jobs to *bring home the bacon* for their children.
- I have a big test tomorrow morning, so I plan to *burn the midnight oil* tonight.
- "If you drop out of school now, you'll be *burning your bridges behind you*."
- "We need a home run to win. *Keep your fingers crossed*."
- "During the summer, Suzzy my cat, *kicked the bucket*."

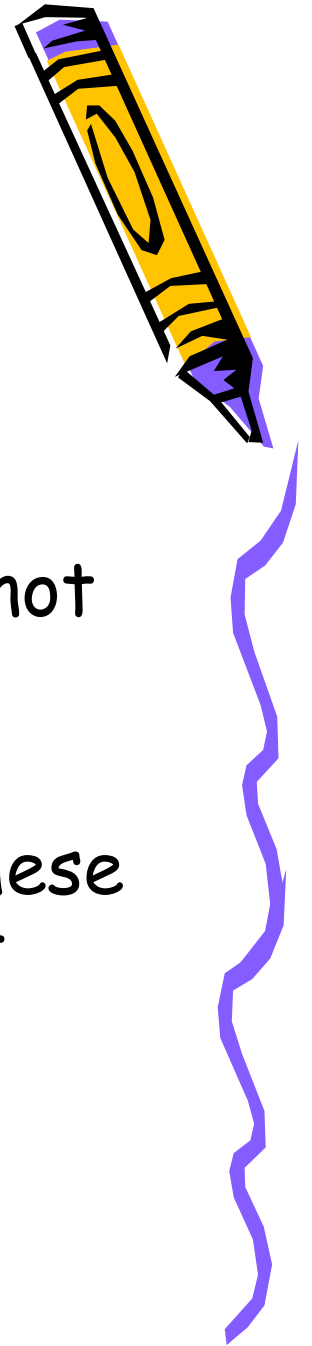


# J is for Jargon

Jargon is a language used in a certain profession or by a particular group of people. It is usually very technical and not at all natural.

Examples:

- I'm having conceptual difficulty with these employee mandates. This means, I don't understand these work orders.

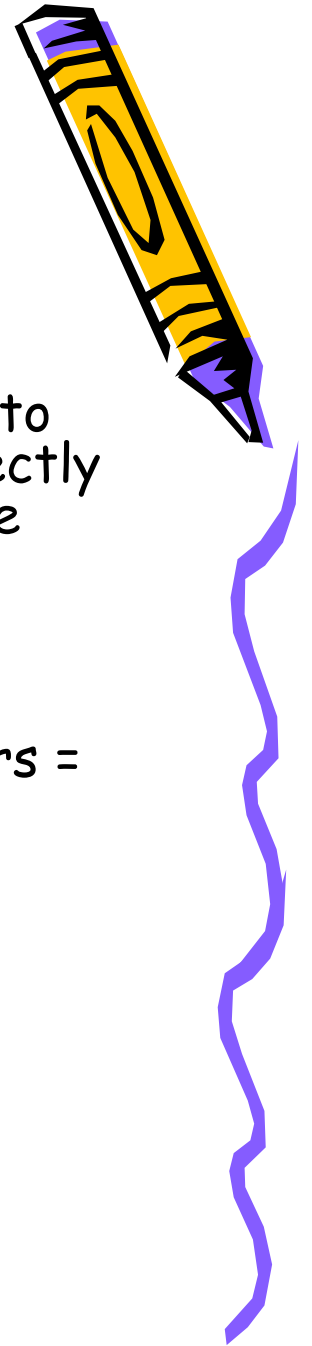


# K is for Kenning.

A type of poetic metaphor made of compound words used to describe or name a person, place, things or event indirectly in a colorful way. It is when a word that defines a single idea or thought is used to replace two or more words.

Examples:

- Swans of the mead of battle = Warrior.
- The dweller of the top of the beast yoked to the wavers = Captain.
- Earth walker = Traveler.
- Battle sweat = Blood.
- World candle = Sun.
- Joy of a bird = Feathers

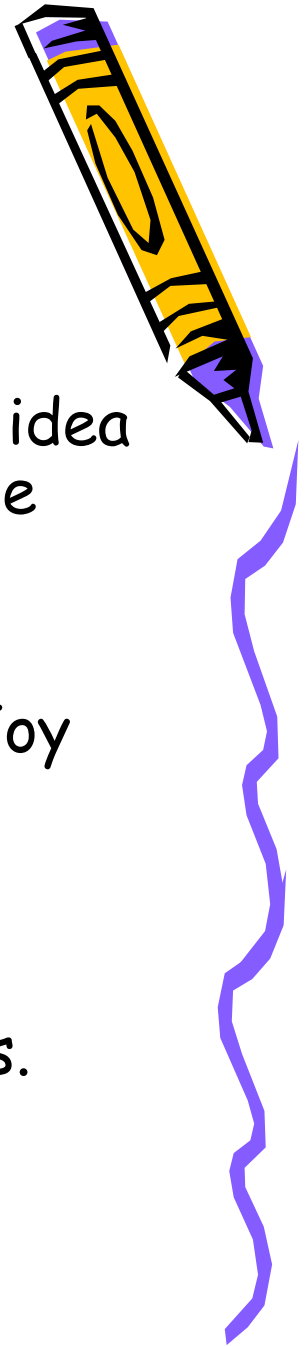


# L is for Litotes.

Litotes is used to describe the expression of an idea by a denial of its opposite principally via double negatives.

Examples:

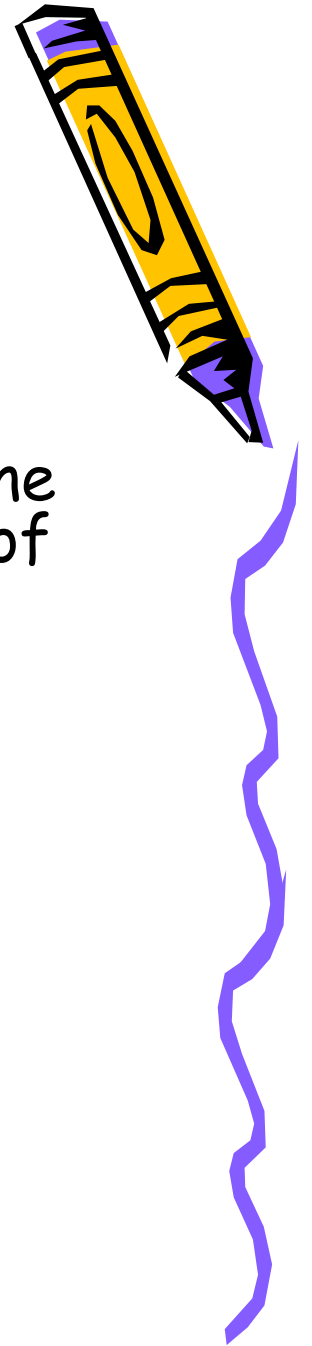
- Rather than saying Joy is attractive, we say Joy is unattractive.
- That sword was not useless to the warrior.
- She is not so unkind.
- He is not unfamiliar with the works of Dickens.



# M is for METAPHOR

A figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things or ideas, in which one thing becomes another thing without the use of the word like, as, than, or resembles.

- Life is but a walking shadow..."
- "O my love is a red, red rose."
- "A green plant is a machine that runs on solar energy."
- "John is a roaring lion."
- "My soul is an enchanted boat."



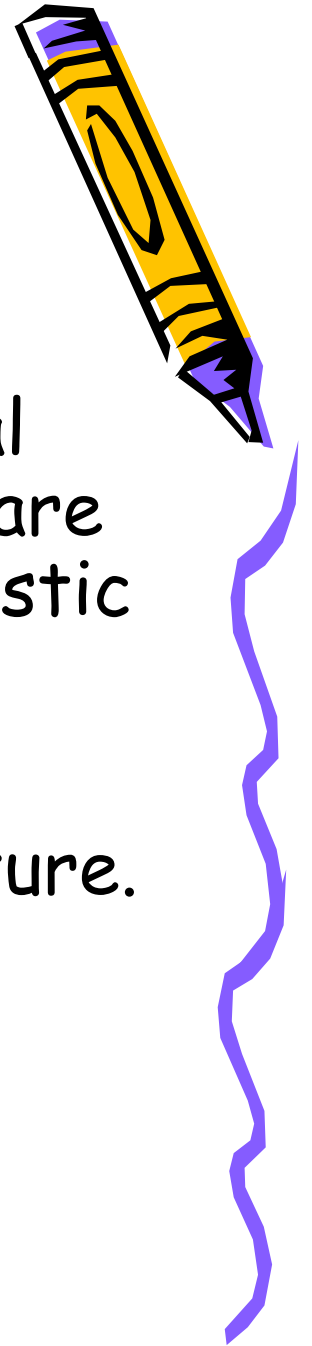


# N is for Neologism.

A made up word that is not part of normal every day vocabulary. Often, Shakespeare invented new words in his plays for artistic reasons.

Examples:

- Climature is from climate and temperature.
- Abyssm is from abyss and chasm.



# O is for OXYMORON

This is using two terms, or words together, that normally contradict each other.

Examples:

- I had a bitter sweet relationship with John.
- I had a love hate feelings about this adventure to the moon.
- I fell in love with a devil angel, her name is Karol.
- Kate was happily sad when she heard the news.

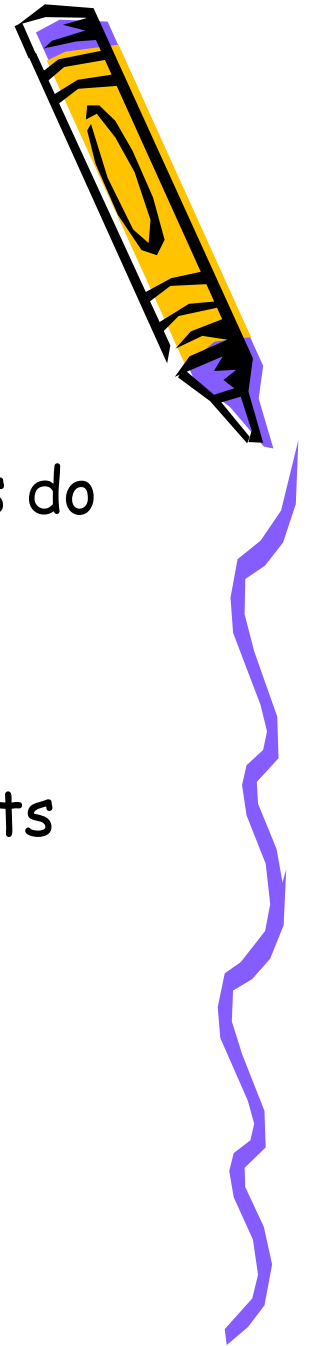


# P is for PERSONIFICATION.

Nonhuman subject is given human characteristics or attributes. Nonliving things do what human do.

Examples:

- The saxophone wailed mournfully.
- "This poetry gets bored of being alone, it wants to go outdoors to chew on the winds, ..."
- "The trees are dancing to the wind."
- "Chicago, City of the Big Shoulders"

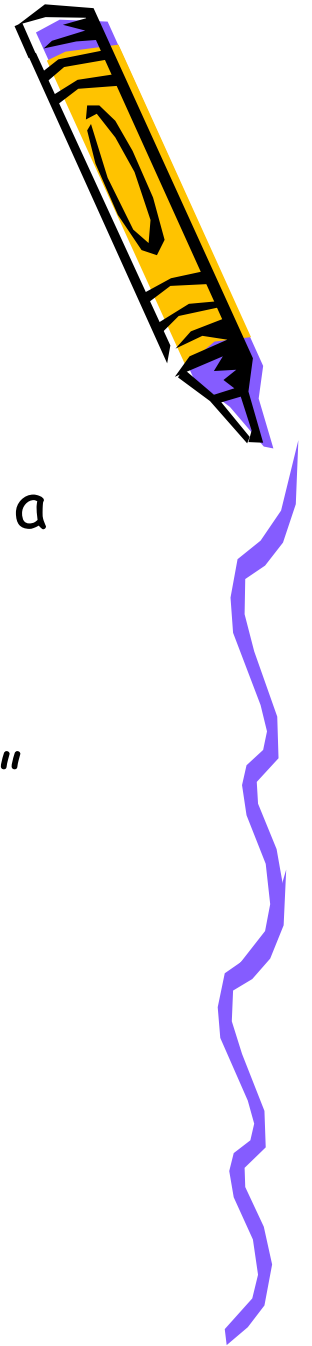


# R is for Repetition

Repetition is the repeating of a word or phrase within a poem or prose piece to create a sense of rhythm.

Examples:

- "His laugh, his dare, his shrug/ sag ghostlike..."
- I came, I saw, I conquered.
- "We are free! We are free!" said the Penner.



# S is for SIMILE.

A figure of speech that makes a comparison between two seemingly unlike things or ideas by using a connective word such as; like, than, as, resembles.

Examples:

- "She walks in beauty, like the night of cloudless climes and starry skies."
- "Jones was pale as a ghost."
- "Rumors spreads like wildfire."
- "Andy was clever as a fox."

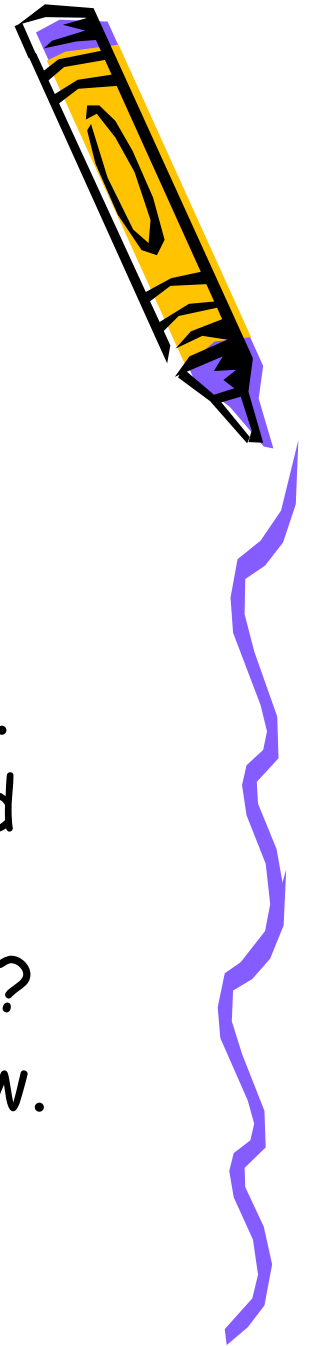


# T is for Tautology

Needless repetition of the same sense in different words.

Examples:

- The children gathered in a round circle.
- Matt is a beginner who has just started working here.
- Will these supplies be adequate enough?
- Mrs. Johns husband died, she is a widow.

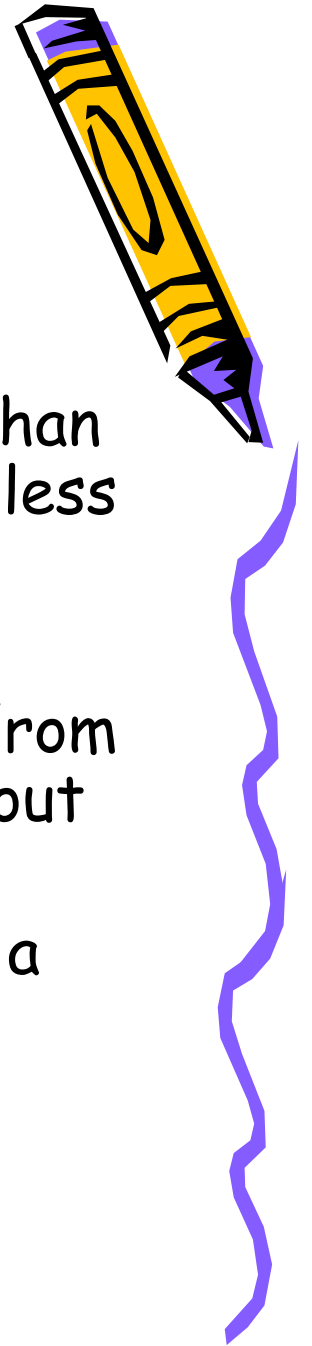


# U is for Understatement.

A figure of speech that consists of saying less than what is really meant or saying something with less force than is appropriate.

Examples:

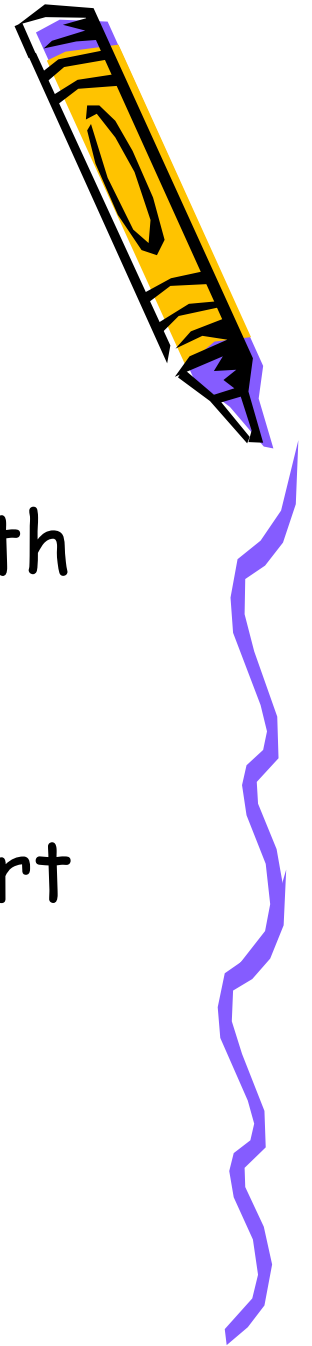
- You are using understatement if you come in from a torrential downpour and say, "It's a bit wet out there."
- You are using understatement if you describe a Great Dane as "not exactly a small dog."



# V is for Vignette.

A short composition showing considerable skill, but designed with little or no plot.

Examples would be narratives appearing in Sandra Cisneros's short stories.



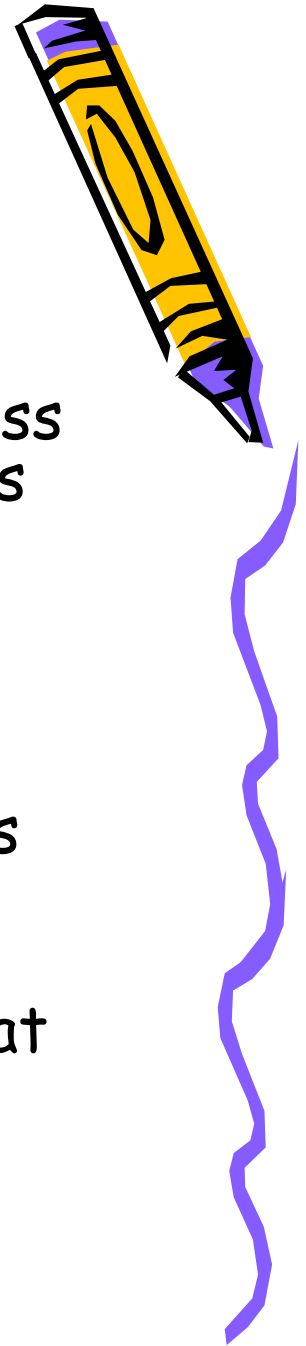


# W is for Wit.

Wit is a form of wordplay that displays cleverness or ingenuity with language. Often, Wit displays humor.

Examples:

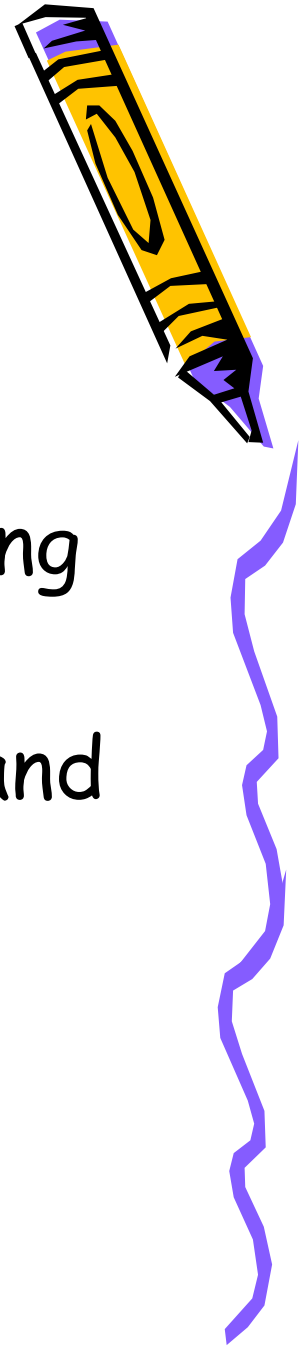
- Man's sense of humor seems to be in inverse proportion to the gravity of his profession.
- I was scared out of my wits; he still had all his marbles and was in full possession of a lively mind.
- True wit is Nature to advantage dressed: What oft was thought, but ne'er so well expressed.



# Y is for Yarn.

Yarn is an informal name for long, rambling story especially one dealing with adventures or tell tales.

Examples are the Chinese P'ing hua and the Russian Skaz.



# Z is for Zeugma.

Zeugma is the use of words in a sentence to modify two other words in the sentence, typically in two different ways.

Examples:

- "Mr. Pickwick took his hat and his leave." The word "took" means two different things.
- He lost his coat and his temper.
- She opened the door and her heart to the orphans.
- You held your breath and the door for me.
- The bored suicide decided to kill time and himself.

