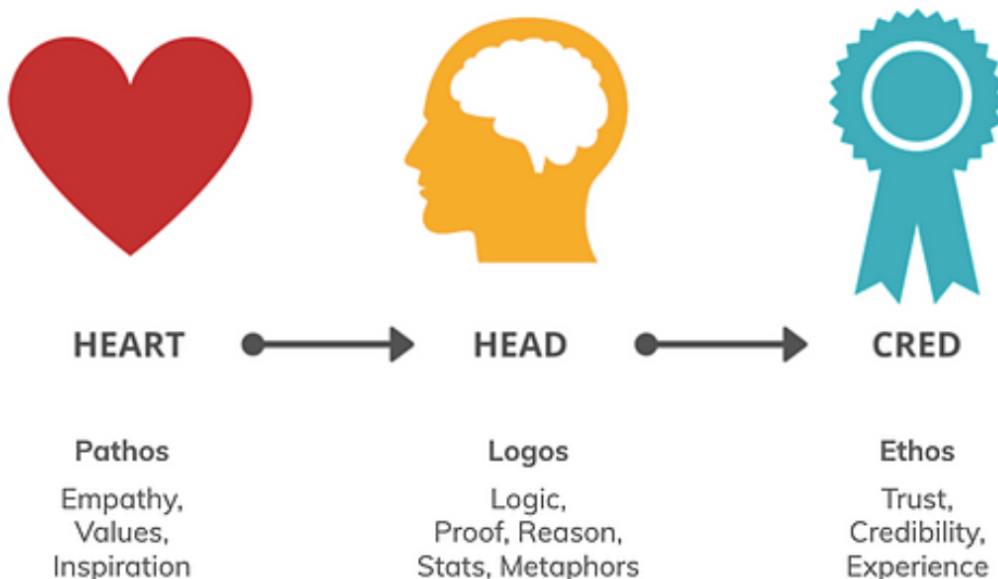
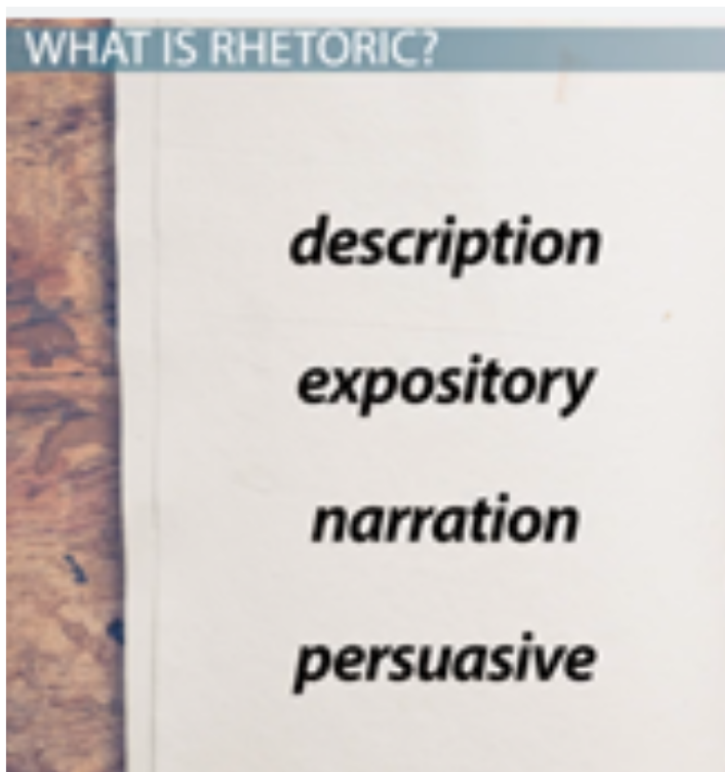


# ELEMENTS OF GOOD WRITING, STORYTELLING, AND THE NARRATIVE ESSAY



# RHETORIC

- **Rhetoric** is the ability to use language effectively.
- **Rhetorical context** refers to the subject, purpose, audience, occasion, or situation in which writing occurs.
- **Rhetorical devices** are literary devices that enhance the message and/or create an effect. |



# THE FIVE CANONS OF RHETORIC

## AN OVERVIEW OF RHETORIC'S ARTISTIC CORNERSTONES

The five canons of rhetoric make reference the art of communication, or the developmental process of taking a good idea and turning it into an effective presentation that your audience will get on board with.

### INVENTION | INVENTIO

Invention refers to coming up with or "inventing" an idea. Any good communication starts with having a good idea.

### DELIVERY | PRONUNTIATIO

Delivery refers to how you actually present the message. If it's a speech, we're talking eye contact, posture, rate of voice, articulation, the way you dress, etc. In other communications, it may be the paper something is printed on, the quality of the printing, the professionalism, etc.

### ARRANGEMENT | DISPOSITIO

Arrangement is all about the organization. Once you have a good idea, you determine what order it needs to go in to be most effective. Arrange words, paragraphs, images, page layouts, and so forth to make your message clear.

### MEMORY | MEMORIA

Memory is about your knowledge and understanding of the content. The more you know, the more you research, the more you learn and understand, the better your presentation will be.

### STYLE | ELOCUTIO

Style refers to choices you make to impact a reader or listener. Consider word choice, tone, pace, visualization, and other emotion-evoking style options.













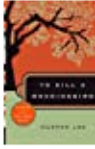



# A GREAT TITLE

## Listopia

### Best Book Titles

The most eye-catching, clever, or distinctive book titles.

 flag

	All Votes	Add Books To This List
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2	 <p><b>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, #1)</b> by Douglas Adams ★★★★★ 4.23 avg rating — 1,734,609 ratings score: 31,930, and 331 people voted</p>	<p>Want to Read </p> <p>Rate this book ★★★★★</p>
3	 <p><b>Something Wicked This Way Comes (Green Town, #2)</b> by Ray Bradbury ★★★★☆ 3.92 avg rating — 122,202 ratings score: 29,517, and 306 people voted</p>	<p>Want to Read </p> <p>Rate this book ★★★★☆</p>
4	 <p><b>Pride and Prejudice and Zombies (Pride and Prejudice and Zombies, #1)</b> by Seth Grahame-Smith (Goodreads Author) ★★★★☆ 3.31 avg rating — 136,165 ratings score: 25,533, and 260 people voted</p>	<p>Want to Read </p> <p>Rate this book ★★★★☆</p>
5	 <p><b>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</b> by Mark Haddon ★★★★☆ 3.89 avg rating — 1,408,873 ratings score: 23,176, and 246 people voted</p>	<p>Want to Read </p> <p>Rate this book ★★★★☆</p>
6	 <p><b>I Was Told There'd Be Cake: Essays</b> by Sloane Crosley (Goodreads Author) ★★★★☆ 3.47 avg rating — 40,028 ratings score: 21,735, and 221 people voted</p>	<p>Want to Read </p> <p>Rate this book ★★★★☆</p>
7	 <p><b>To Kill a Mockingbird</b> by Harper Lee ★★★★★ 4.27 avg rating — 5,673,287 ratings score: 20,843, and 220 people voted</p>	<p>Want to Read </p> <p>Rate this book ★★★★★</p>
8	 <p><b>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</b></p>	<p>Want to Read </p>

# A GREAT OPENING

see online article

1. I didn't mean to kill her.
2. The air turned black all around me.
3. Icy fingers gripped my arm in the darkness.
4. Wandering through the graveyard it felt like something was watching me.
5. The eyes in the painting follow him down the corridor.
6. A shrill cry echoed in the mist
7. Icy wind slashed at his face and the rain danced its evil dance upon his head as he tried to get his bearings on the isolated beach.
8. Footsteps slowly creaked on every step of the stairs. The bedroom door handle turned slowly.
9. Death lurked in every door way with hell at one dark window. Inspired by A. Noyes 'The Highwayman'
10. My hair stood on end, a shiver raced down my spine and a lump came to my throat. It was him...
11. The gravestones stood silently, row upon row like soldiers long forgotten, a scream shattered the silence...
12. It was there and then it had gone, why would a rabbit be on my bathroom floor?
13. Bleary-eyed, I went downstairs for breakfast, the house was empty, even the furniture had gone...
14. The lights flickered and then went off, then the sirens started, it was coming, we knew it wouldn't be the last time...
15. The date was 13th July, my 345th birthday... it would be my last...
16. Three of us. We were the only ones left, the only ones to make it to the island.

## The Story Starter Shed

I didn't mean to kill her. The air turned black all around me. Icy fingers gripped my arm in the darkness. Wandering through the graveyard it felt like something was watching me. The eyes in...



THE LITERACY SHED

[literacyshed.com/the-story-starter-shed.html](http://literacyshed.com/the-story-starter-shed.html)



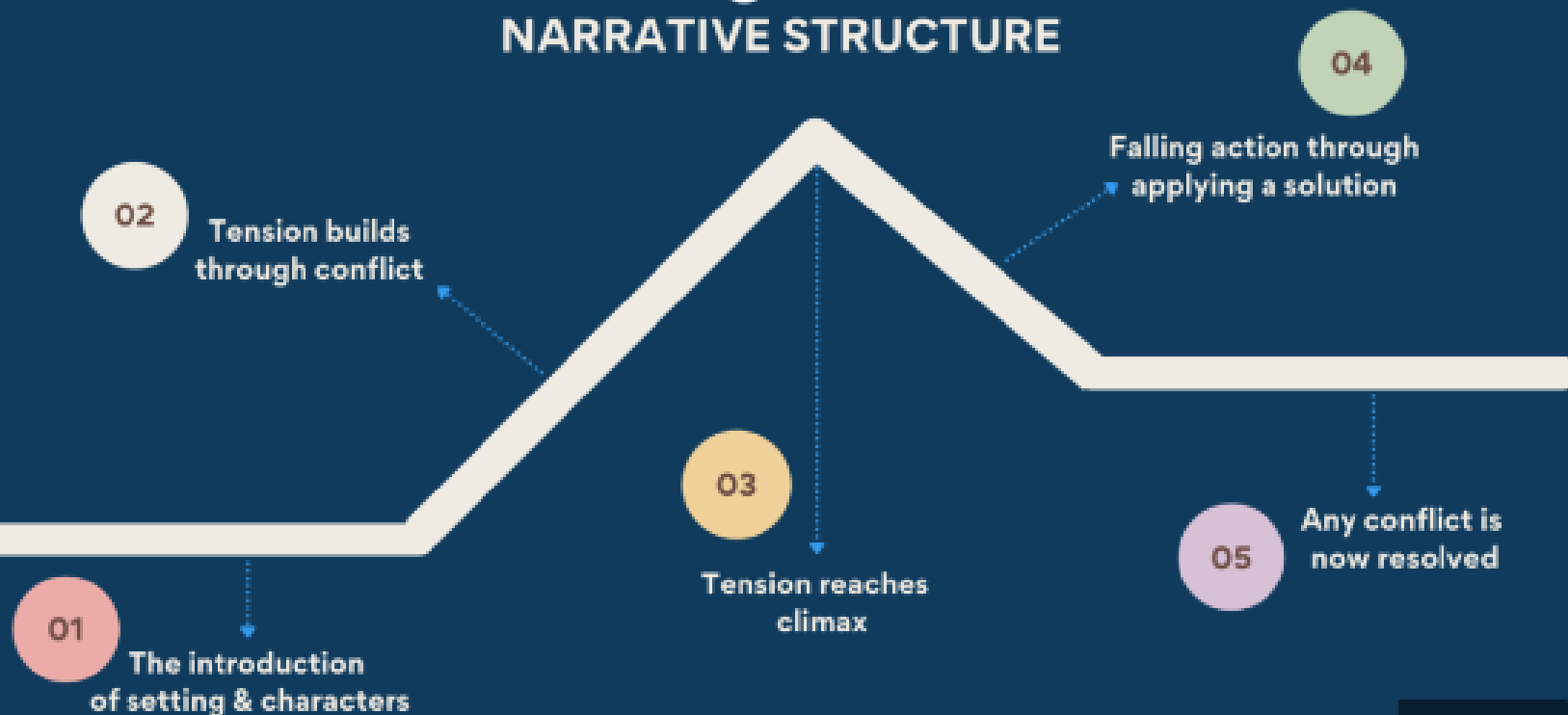
# RHETORICAL DEVICES

Anthropomorphism Allegory  
Plot Allusion Personification  
Foreshadowing Simile Climax Metaphor  
Pun Exposition Antagonist  
Parallelism Diction Repetition  
Characterization Mood Motif  
Idiom Theme Foreshadowing  
Irony Proverbs Imagery Cliche  
Onomatopoeia Tone Oxymoron

- **STRUCTURE (CHRONOLOGICAL, FLASHBACKS, FLASHFORWARD, THE 7 STORY ARCHETYPES ARE OVERCOMING THE MONSTER, RAGS TO RICHES, THE QUEST, VOYAGE AND RETURN, COMEDY, TRAGEDY, REBIRTH)**
  - **CONFLICT**
  - **CLIMAX**
- **WORD CHOICES (SPECIFICITY, VIVID VERBS, CONCRETE NOUNS, UNUSUAL, UNEXPECTED, POWERFUL: "HOW TO BUILD YOU WRITING VOCAB": QUOTIDIANWRITER.COM)**
- **DETAILS**
- **DESCRIPTION (SHOW DON'T TELL: WATCH 2 VIDEOS)**
- **SENSORY IMAGERY**
- **SYNTAX**
- **DIALOGUE**
- **DENSE PARAGRAPH (THINK STEPHEN KING)**
- **PUNCTUATION (DASH, COMMA, ELLIPSES)**
- **FIGURATIVE (VS. LITERAL) LANGUAGE**
- **GREAT ENDING**

# NARRATIVE STRUCTURES

## StageMilk NARRATIVE STRUCTURE





# NARRATIVE ORGANIZER

Plot Diagram for \_\_\_\_\_

**Climax:**

- 9. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1. \_\_\_\_\_

**Rising Action**

**Falling Action**

- 10 \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution:**

**Exposition**

**Protagonist:**  
**Antagonist:**  
**Setting – Time:**  
**Setting – Place:**  
**Internal Conflict:**  
**External Conflict:**

**Author's Theme:**

**Symbolism:**

**Foreshadowing:**

**Irony:**

# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

It's tempting to think that direct language is the easiest for us to understand, but sometimes we respond better to more creative wording. Writers and poets use figurative language to build imagery and give words more power. Simile, metaphor and a host of other non-literal methods of expression help make foreign concepts familiar and graspable.

Figurative language is phrasing that goes beyond the literal meaning of words to get a message or point across. This definition dates back to the mid-nineteenth century and comes from the Old French word "figuratif," meaning "metaphorical."

**The chief function of figurative language is to communicate the writer's message as clearly as possible.**

**That might be by putting a foreign concept into familiar terms that a reader or listener can easily grasp, or it might be by creating imagery that's vivid and visceral.**

**Some types of figurative language also have other uses unrelated to their role in creating imagery. For example, writers use alliteration, consonance and assonance alongside rhyme to give words rhythm and musicality.**

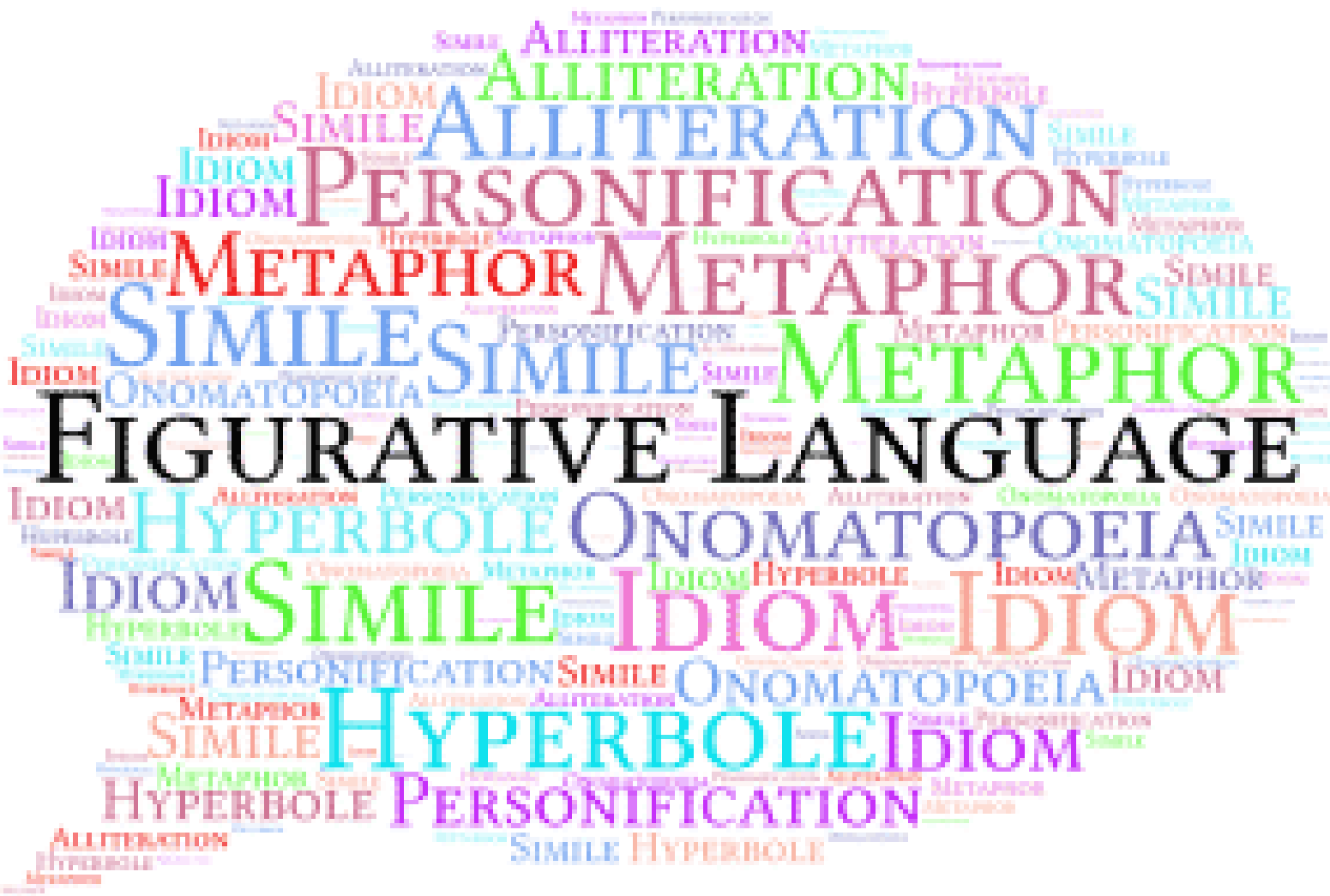
## Play with Words: Figurative Speaking

During communication, expressing ordinary situations or events in a different way affects that speech and expression. One type of different speech is to use figurative language. The meaning of figurative speech is to be able to present the meaning of a speech more effectively. This speech, which has a very different meaning by combining with ordinary words while alone, makes the information your expression will give stronger.

With figurative speech, you can say sentences that you can say directly more effectively, and differently. This language, which is used abundantly in fictional writings, is used to influence the other side and to intensify what is told. Figurative speech makes the language used stronger and more complex. In this way, a difference in expression is obtained.

### Where to Use Figurative?

Figurative speech does not adhere to certain boundaries. It can adapt to all types of writing. It can be used in prose, poetry, story, songs, and any other place you can think of. Figurative speech, even in normal daily conversations, differentiates everywhere it is used. For example, the fact that long depictions in a novel contain figurative language and get rid of their boring state can make us experience the effect of this way of speaking. Or the figurative language that joins the conversation in a beautiful setting keeps the conversation alive.





# FIGURES *of* SPEECH

**S**

SIMILE

**H**

HYPERBOLE

**A**

ALLITERATION

**M**

METAPHOR

**P**

PERSONIFICATION

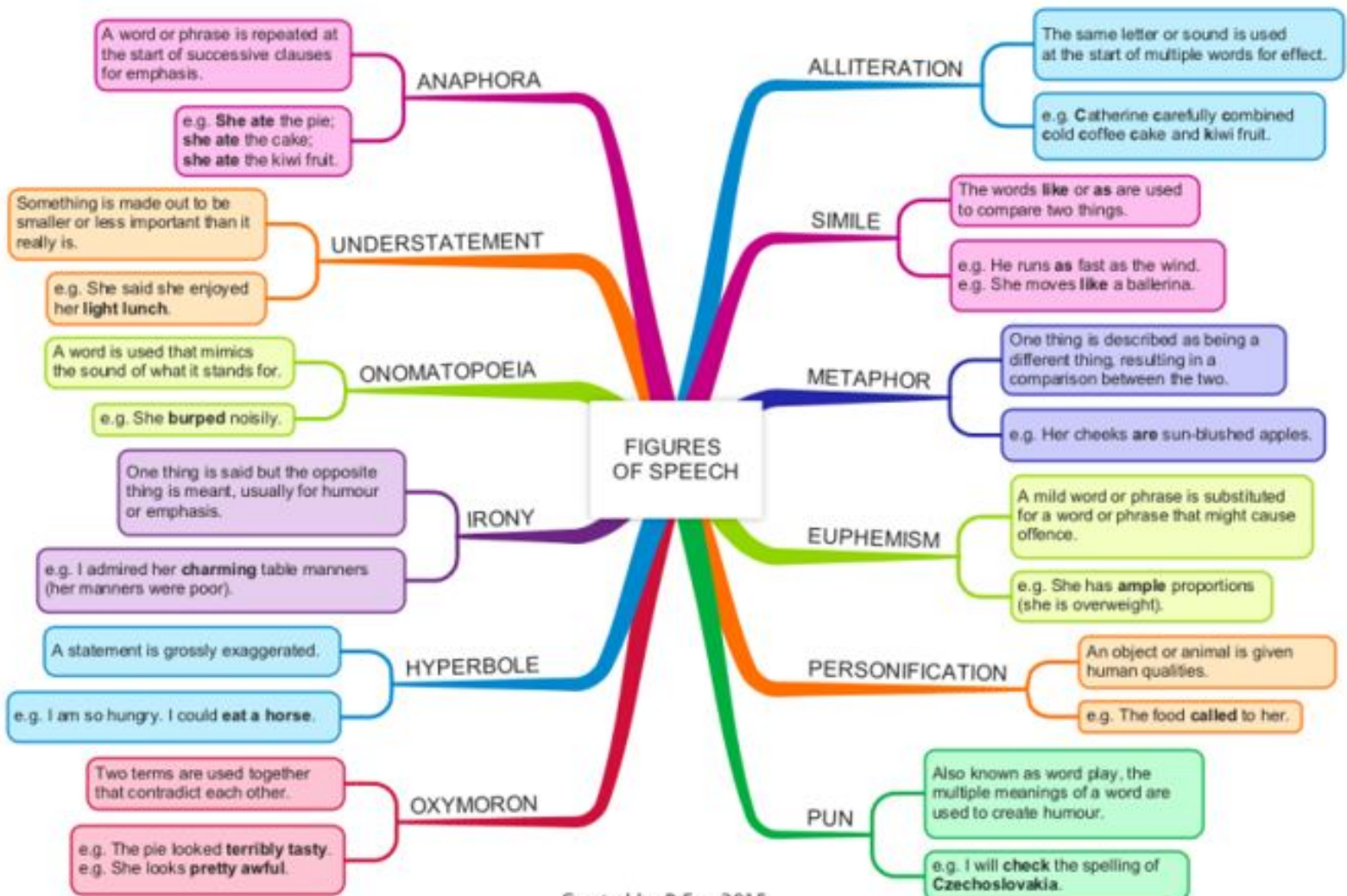
**O**

ONOMATOPOEIA

**O**

OXYMORON

# MORE FIGURES OF SPEECH



Go to [teachandreach.com](https://www.teachandreach.com) to see fuller list of figurative language and linguistic devices.

# Figures of speech (full list)

# JUST SOME!

Figures of speech (or 'rhetorical tropes') are ways of using words that may seem unusual in eloquent speech.

'Figures of speech' is often used generically, and the big list here includes not only figures

- **Abbaser**: See [Tapinosis](#).
- **Abusio**: See [Catachresis](#)
- **Acoloutha**: Reciprocal substitution of words.
- **Accismus**: Feigned refusal of that which is desired.
- **Accumulatio**: Drawing points into a powerful climax.
- **Acutezza**: The use of wit or wordplay.
- **Acyron**: Using a word opposite to what is meant.
- **Adianoeta**: Expression that has second, subtle meaning.
- **Adjunction**: Putting the verb at the beginning.
- **Adynaton**: Exaggerated declaration of impossibility.
- **Asteismos**: Polite expression of emotion.
- **Aetiologia**: A statement with a supporting cause.
- **Affirmatio**: Speaking as if one's point is disputed.
- **Aganactesis**: Indignant exclamation.
- **Allegory**: Narrative using sustained metaphor.
- **Alleotheta**: Substituting one thing for another.
- **Allusion**: Indirect reference.
- **Alliteration**: Repetition of same initial sound.
- **Ambage**: See [Periphrasis](#).
- **Amphibology**: Ambiguity in grammar.
- **Amphilogy**: Circumlocution to avoid harm to oneself.
- **Ampliatio**: Using a name where it is not defined.
- **Amplificatio**: General enhancement of an argument.
- **Anabasis**: Stepwise increase in emphasis.
- **Anacephalaeosis**: Summary of known facts.
- **Anacoenosis**: Asking opinion of audience to gain agreement.
- **Anacoloutha**: Non-reciprocal word substitution.
- **Anacoluthon**: Ending a sentence different to expectation.
- **Anacrusis**: Unstressed syllables at the start.
- **Anadiplosis**: Repeating last word at start of next sentence.
- **Analogy**: A is *like* B. Using one thing to describe another.
- **Anamnesis**: Emotional recall.
- **Anangeon**: Justification based on necessity.
- **Anaphora**: Repeating initial words.

# SYNTAX

## THIS SENTENCE HAS FIVE WORDS: A LESSON FROM GARY PROVOST ON VARYING SENTENCE LENGTH

*This short example from Gary Provost demonstrates what happens when a writer experiments with sentences of different lengths, as quoted in **Writing Tools: 50 Essential Strategies for Every Writer** by Roy Peter Clark.*

This sentence has five words. Here are five more words.  
Five-word sentences are fine. But several together become monotonous. Listen to what is happening. The writing is getting boring. The sound of it drones. It's like a stuck record. The ear demands some variety.

Now listen. I vary the sentence length, and I create music. Music. The writing sings. It has a pleasant rhythm, a lilt, a harmony. I use short sentences. And I use sentences of medium length. And sometimes when I am certain the reader is rested, I will engage him with a sentence of considerable length, a sentence that burns with energy and builds with all the impetus of a crescendo, the roll of the drums, the crash of the cymbals—sounds that say listen to this, it is important.

So write with a combination of short, medium, and long sentences. Create a sound that pleases the reader's ear. Don't just write words. Write music.

see "100 beautiful words" online article

**LISTEN TO MARTIN LUTHER  
KING JR SPEECH AND  
ANALYZE FOR FIGURATIVE  
LANGUAGE AND MORE**

**VIEW ONLINE FLASHCARDS  
ANALYZING SPEECH**



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