

LITERATURE FORMS, ETC.

ALLEGORY - A story in which people, things and happenings have a hidden or symbolic meaning.

ANALOGOUS - Similar or comparable in certain respects. A partial resemblance between things otherwise unlike.

CHIASMUS - In rhetoric, inversion of the second of two parallel phrases, clauses, etc. (ex.: she went to Paris; to New York went he).

DIDACTIC - Used or intended for teaching or instruction.

EPIC - A long narrative poem in a dignified style about the deeds of a traditional or historical hero or heroes; typically, with certain formal characteristics or structure.

EUPHEMISM - The use of a word or phrase that is less expressive or direct but considered less distasteful, less offensive, etc. than another. (Ex. asleep for dead)

EXPOSITORY - Of, like, or containing facts, ideas, etc., detailed explanation.

FABLE - 1. A fictitious story meant to teach a moral lesson: the characters are usually talking animals 2. a myth or legend 3. a story that is not true; falsehood.

ff - Following (pages, lines, etc.)

IMAGERY - 1. Images generally; especially statues 2. mental images as produced by memory or imagination 3. descriptions and figures of speech.

HISTORICAL - 1. Of or concerned with history as a science (the historical method) 2. Providing evidence for a fact of history; serving as a source of history (a historical document) 3. based on or suggested by people or events of the past (a historical novel) 4. established by history; not legendary or fictional; factual; real.

HYMN - 1. A song in praise or honor of God 2. Any song of praise or glorification.

LEGEND - A story handed down for generations among a people and popularly believed to have a historical basis, although not verifiable.

LITANY - 1. A form of prayer in which the clergy and the congregation take part alternately, with recitation of supplications and fixed responses 2. any dreary or repetitive recital or account.

MASHAL - A 2 part proverb or saying (Literary form of Eccl.)

METAPHOR - A figure of speech containing an implied comparison, in which a word or phrase ordinarily and primarily used of one thing is applied to another (Ex. the curtain of night, "all the world's a stage").

MYTH - 1. A traditional story of unknown authorship, ostensibly with a historical basis, but serving usually to explain some phenomenon of nature, the origin of man, or the customs, institutions, religious rites, etc. of a people: myths usually involve the exploits of gods and heroes: 2. such stories collectively, mythology 3. any fictitious story, or unscientific account, theory, etc 4. any imaginary person or thing spoken of as though existing.

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NARRATIVE - An account, happening or tale which is told in writing or speech as a story - history, biography or fiction.

PARADOX - A statement that seems contradictory, unbelievable, or absurd but that may actually be true in fact.

PARALLELISM - The use of parallel structure in writing. Synonymous echoes, antithetic contrasts, synthetic completes.

PERSONIFICATION - 2. A person or thing thought of as representing some quality, thing, or idea an embodiment; perfect example 3. A figure of speech in which a thing, quality or idea is represented as a person.

POEM - 1. An arrangement of words written or spoken, traditionally a rhythmical composition, sometimes rhymed, expressing experiences, ideas, or emotions in a style more concentrated, imaginative, and powerful than that of ordinary speech or prose: some poems are in meter, some in free verse 2. anything suggesting a poem in its effect.

PROSE - The ordinary form of written or spoken language, without rhyme or meter; speech or writing that is not poetry.

RHETORIC - The art or science of using words effectively in speaking or writing; esp., now, the art or science of literary composition, particularly in prose, including the use of figures of speech.

SIMILE - A figure of speech in which one thing is likened to another, dissimilar thing by the use of *like*, *as*, etc. (Ex. a heart as big as a whale, her tears flowed like wine): distinguished from metaphor.

SONG - a) poetry; verse b) a relatively short metrical composition for, or suitable for, singing, as a ballad or simple lyric.

SYMBOLISM - The representation of things by use of symbols, esp. in art or literature.