

Literary Terms

Alliteration -Repetition of consonant
sounds of words close together

Example:

Hyperbole --A very large exaggeration

Example: My backpack weighs a ton.
I told you a thousand times.

Imagery--Language that appeals to
the senses

Example: "The clay oozed between
Jeremy's fingers as he let out a squeal of pure
glee."

"I was awakened by the strong smell of a
freshly brewed coffee."

Metaphor

An imaginative comparison between two unlike things in which one thing is said to be another thing.

Example: "Memory is a crazy woman that hoards colored rags and throws away food." ~Austin O'Malley,

Mood

The overall emotion created by a work of literature.

Example: The children who sat at the kitchen table had smiles on their faces and birthday cake and ice cream in front of them. They laughed and squealed with delight.

Onomatopoeia--the formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named

The chirping of the birds outside my window woke me up.

Personification--A figure of speech in which an object or animal is given human characteristics

Example: The sun **peeked** over the horizon.

The fire **gobbled** up the cotton.

Repetition --a word or phrase used over and over again for emphasis. *Repetition is often used in poetry, folk tales and speeches.*

The Bells

Hear the sledges with the bells-- Silver bells!
What a world of merriment their melody
foretells! How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle, In
the icy air of night

Rhyme—*The repetition of a sound
in two or more words*

Rhythm--The arrangement of stressed and unstressed sounds in writing and speech

Simile

A comparison between two unlike things using a word such as *like*, *as*, *than*, or *resembles*.

Example: "When he finished the apple, he smacked his lips together like a pair of cymbals."

Symbol

a person, a place, a thing, or an event that has its own meaning and stands for something beyond itself as well.

Example: The American flag

Tone--Tone is the part of the work that expresses the **writer's attitude** toward his or her subject. Tone may be formal, informal, intimate, solemn, somber, playful, serious, ironic, condescending, or many other possible attitudes