**Literary Devices**

**Alliteration:** a repetition of the initial sounds of several words in a group.

**Analogy:** a comparison of two things made to explain something unfamiliar through its similarities to something familiar, or to prove one point based on the acceptances of another.

**Antagonist:** a person or force which opposes the protagonist in a literary work.

**Apologue:** A moral fable, usually featuring personified animals or inanimate objects which act like people to allow the author to comment on the human condition. Often, the apologue highlights the irrationality of mankind.

**Aside:** a device in which a character in a drama makes a short speech that is heard by the audience but not by the other characters in the play.

**Autobiography:** the story of a person’s life written by him/herself.

**Ballad:** A short poem that tells a simple story and has a repeated refrain. Ballads were originally intended to be sung. Early ballads, known as folk ballads, were passed down through generations, so their authors are often unknown. Later ballads composed by known authors are called literary ballads.

**Biography:** the story of a person’s life written by someone other than the subject of the work.

**Character:** a person or anything as a person, e.g. a spirit, object, animal or force in a literary work.

**Characterization:** the method a writer uses to reveal the personality of a character in a literary work.

**Cliché:** An idea or expression that has become tired and trite from overuse, its freshness and clarity having worn off. Clichés often anesthetize readers, and are usually a sign of weak writing.

**Climax:** the decisive moment in a drama; it is the turning point of the play or story.

**Comedy:** a literary work which is amusing and ends happily.

**Conclusion:** it is the point in a drama or story to which the entire story has been leading.

**Conflict:** in the plot in a drama or story, conflict occurs when some person or force opposes the protagonist.

**Dialect:** Dialects are spoken by definablegroups of people from a particular geographic region, economic group, or social class. Writers use dialect to contrast and express differences in educational, class, social, and regional backgrounds of their characters"

**Dialogue:** it is a conversation between characters.

**Diction:** The author's choice of words. Since words have specific meanings, and since one's choice of words can affect feelings, a writer's choice of words can have great impact in a literary work. The writer, therefore, must choose his words carefully.

**End- Stopped Line:** A line of verse that ends with a grammatical break such as end punctuation, a colon, a semi-colon, or a comma.

**Euphemism:** A mild word of phrase which substitutes for another which would be undesirable because it is too direct, unpleasant, or offensive.

**Fable:** a short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral.

**Falling Action:** it is a series of events that take place after the climax and leads to the conclusion.

**Figurative Language:** it is a way of saying one thing and meaning something else e.g. simile, metaphor and personification.

**Foreshadowing:** method used to build suspense by providing hints of what is to come.

**Hyperbole:** In literary criticism, deliberate exaggeration used to achieve an effect. Exaggeration that is not expected to be believed or taken literally.

**Idioms:** A word construction or verbal expression closely associated with a given language.

**Internal Rhythm:** Rhyme that occurs within a single line of verse.

**Metaphor:** it is a comparison that is made between two unlike objects using “like” or “as”, e.g. the sun was a red ball of fire.

**Mood:** the atmosphere or feeling created by a piece of writing.

**Novel:** a prose work of substantial length, often divided into parts and several chapters.

**Onomatopoeia:** a literary device where in the sound of a word echoes the sound it represents, e.g. “splash” and “knock”.

**Oxymoron:** a figure of speech in which contradictory words or connotations are placed together.

**Palindrome:** A word, phrase or line of verse that reads the same forwards or backwards.

**Parataxis:** The use of clauses (one right after the other) but without conjunctions.

**Personification:** a figure of speech in which something nonhuman is given human. characteristics

**Plot:** the structure of a story.

**Point of View:** The narrative perspective from which a literary work is presented to the reader. There are four traditional points of view: third person omniscient, third person, and first person. Much less common than omniscient, third person, and first person is the "second person" point of view, wherein the author tells the story as if it is happening to the reader. Second person sometimes is used to refer to a narrator who is a secondary character, such as Dr. Watson in the Sherlock Holmes stories.

**Protagonist:** the hero or central character of a literary work.

**Pun:** a play on words where in a word is used to convey two meanings at the same time.

**Resolution:** it is also called the ‘conclusion’ on a drama or story.

**Rhyme:** When used as a noun in literary criticism, this term generally refers to a poem in which words sound identical or very similar and appear in parallel positions in two or more lines.

**Satire:** A piece of literature designed to ridicule the subject of the work. While satire can be funny, its aim is not to amuse, but to arouse contempt. The satirist aims to reduce the practices attacked by laughing scornfully at them--and being witty enough to allow the reader to laugh, also.

**Simile:** a figure of speech that compares two things using “as” or “like”.

**Stereotype:** An author's method of treating a character so that the character is immediately identified with a group. A character may be associated with a group through accent, food choices, style of dress, or any readily identifiable group characteristic.

**Symbolism:** A device in literature where an object represents an idea.

**Syntax:** The ordering of words into meaningful verbal patterns such as phrases, clauses, and sentences. Poets often manipulate syntax, changing conventional word order, to place certain emphasis on particular words.