

Definitions for the Day

Eulogy: a speech or piece of writing that praises someone or something highly, typically someone who has just died. *Example:* "his good friend delivered a brief eulogy"

Repetition: the purposeful re-use of words or phrases for effect.

Example from "The Bells" by Edgar Allen Poe:

How the danger sinks and swells,
By the sinking or the swelling in the anger of the *bells*,
Of the *bells*,
Of the *bells, bells, bells, bells*,
Bells, bells, bells—
In the clamor and the clangor of the *bells*!

Anaphora: a kind of repetition where a word or group of words is repeated at the beginning of two or more successive clauses or sentences. This technique adds emphasis and unity to the clauses. *Example* from Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech:

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.
I have a dream today!

Metaphor: a comparison of two unlike things without using like or as.

Example: Emily Dickinson:

'Hope' is the thing with feathers—
That perches in the soul—

Simile: a comparison of two unlike things using like or as.

Example from "Harlem" by Langston Hughes:

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?

Sensory Description: describes people, places, and objects in a manner that a person can relate to through any of their five senses: smell, taste, sight, touch, and hearing. *Example* from "World Town" by Shane Book:

in the house he built entirely of doors: pink school door,
gold of the burnt hotel, two old church blues, the abandoned
bank's steel doors

