Literary Devices Vocabulary

1. **Alliteration:** a series of words that contain the same consonant sound in the first syllable
   1. **Ex.** Angels ate apples (all begin with the same letter: “a”)
2. **Hyperbole:** truth is exaggerated for humor or emphasis
   1. **Ex.** “Maybe Kino has cut off his own head and destroyed himself” (Steinbeck 53).
3. **Metaphor:** a comparison made between two unlike objects
   1. **Ex.** “Above, the surface of the water was an undulating mirror of brightness” (Steinbeck 17).
4. **Onomatopoeia:** The formation or use of words that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to
   1. **Ex.** “You put the boom boom into my heart” (Wham!)
5. **Personification:** giving human qualities or characteristics to non-human objects
   1. **Ex.** “Behind him Juana’s fire leaped into flame and threw spears of light through the chinks of the brushhouse wall…” (Steinbeck 2).
6. **Simile:** a comparison made between two unlike objects, using the words “like” or “as” in the comparison
   1. **Ex.** “She looked up at him, her eyes as cold as the eyes of a lioness” (Steinbeck 7).
7. **Symbolism**: the use of creative objects or symbols to represent a deeper meaning or something larger than the object itself.
   1. **Ex.** Turkey is a symbol of Thanksgiving
8. **Tone:** the author’s attitude or point of view toward a subject
   1. **Ex.** nostalgic, sentimental, moralizing, humorous or serious, personal or impersonal, subjective or objective, casual or passionate.
9. **Repetition:** An instance of using a word, phrase, or clause more than once in a short passage--dwelling on a point
   1. **Ex.** The Chorus, “Wake Me Up Before You Go Go”
10. **Sensory images** the use of words to create pictures in the reader’s mind; using the 5 senses
    1. **Ex.** "The artist's life nourishes itself on the particular, the concrete. . . . Start with the mat-green fungus in the pine woods yesterday: words about it, describing it, and a poem will come. . . . Write about the cow, Mrs. Spaulding's heavy eyelids, the smell of vanilla flavouring in a brown bottle. That's where the magic mountains begin." (Sylvia Plath, *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath*, edited by Karen Kukil, Anchor, 2000)

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