


Module 6: The Power of the Mind in the Romantic Era

Topic 3 Content: Poetic Devices

Introduction

Poetic Devices

Introduction
Click on each of the spinning dots to view poetic devices.



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Figurative Language

Poetic Devices

Figurative Language

Figurative language is language that is not meant to be taken literally and is an integral part of poetry.

- A **simile** is a direct comparison of dissimilar things using "like" or "as." *The cloud is as fluffy as a sheep.*
- A **metaphor** is an implied comparison in which two very different things are compared by redefining one of them. *Her heart is a steel box.*
- In **personification**, an author gives human qualities to a non-human subject. *The leaves danced a waltz to the breeze's accompaniment.*
- **Hyperbole** is the use of an extreme exaggeration, as in *It's raining cats and dogs.*
- **Imagery** is language that appeals to the five senses, such as *brilliant pink petals, the tangy scent of spice, the whoosh of heavy wings, the ice cream slid down my throat creamy and sweet, or the grit of sand grated beneath my fingertips.*

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Sound Devices



Poetic Devices

Sound Devices

Sound devices appeal to the sense of sound in the poem's structure and are used frequently in poems of all kinds.

- **Alliteration** is the repetition of the consonant sound at the beginning of words. Normally, there must be at least three repetitions per line. *Suzy sells seashells by the seashore.*
- **Consonance** is the repetition of similar final consonant sounds. Typically, there must be at least three repetitions per line. *Cantankerous fools always lose.*
- **Assonance** is the repetition of vowel sounds in stressed syllables. Typically, there must be at least three repetitions per line. *How now brown cow?*
- **Internal rhyme** is the use of rhymes within a poetic line. *The cat always brought his hat.*
- **Onomatopoeia** uses words that sound like the noise they represent. *Snap, crackle, pop.*

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Language of Fantasy

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Language of Fantasy
Language of fantasy is the use of archaic words and exotic-sounding places and names. Take for example *Xanadu*.

The image shows an open book with text on its pages, resting on a wooden surface. In the background, a fire is burning brightly in a fireplace. The entire scene is framed by a dark grey border with the text 'Poetic Devices' at the top left. Several yellow circular icons with a white plus sign are scattered around the book and fire. A white text box with a black border is overlaid on the book, containing the definition of 'Language of Fantasy'.

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Meter

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Meter

Meter is the rhythmical pattern of a poem achieved through the use of stressed and unstressed syllables. Iambic pentameter is a common meter with an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable, such as in this line from William Shakespeare's Sonnet XVIII: "*Thou art more lovely and more temperate.*"

The image shows an open book with text on the pages, set against a background of a warm, glowing fire. A white text box with a black border is overlaid on the book, containing the definition of Meter. The text box has a green 'i' icon in the top left corner and several yellow '+' icons scattered around it. The book is open to a page with dense text, and the fire in the background is bright and warm, creating a cozy atmosphere.

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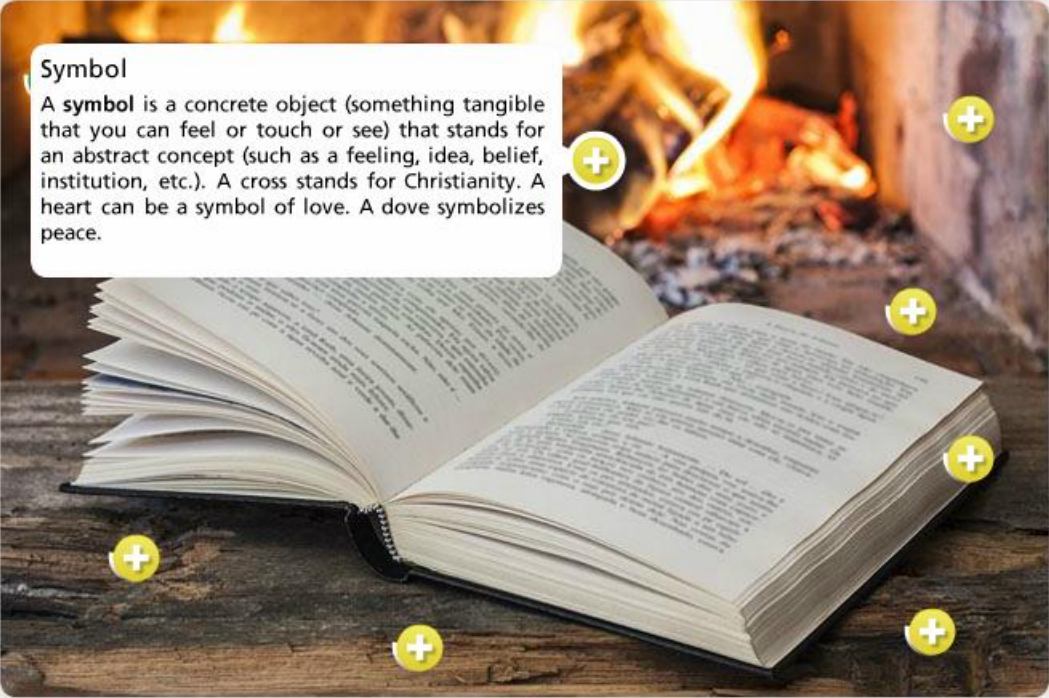
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Symbol

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Symbol
A **symbol** is a concrete object (something tangible that you can feel or touch or see) that stands for an abstract concept (such as a feeling, idea, belief, institution, etc.). A cross stands for Christianity. A heart can be a symbol of love. A dove symbolizes peace.

An open book with a fire in the background, with several yellow plus signs scattered around it. The book is open to two pages of text, and the fire is visible in the background, creating a warm, cozy atmosphere. The plus signs are placed at various points on the book and the background, likely indicating specific symbols or concepts discussed in the text.

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Poetic Vision

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Poetic Vision
Poetic vision is a comprehensive view of life, the world, and ordinary perceptions.

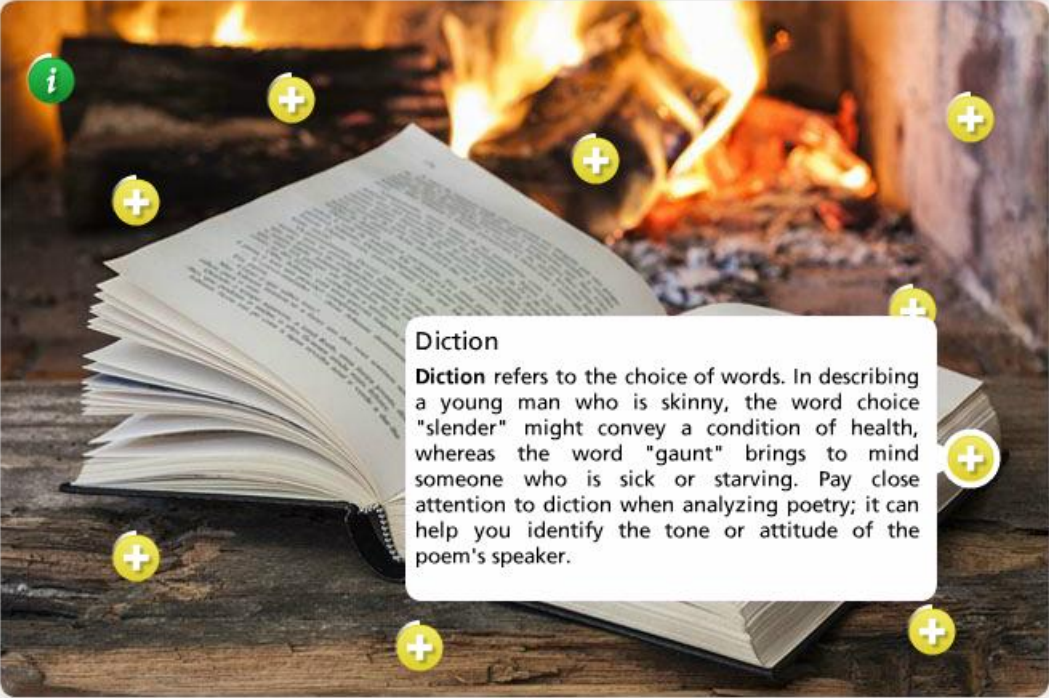
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Diction

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Diction

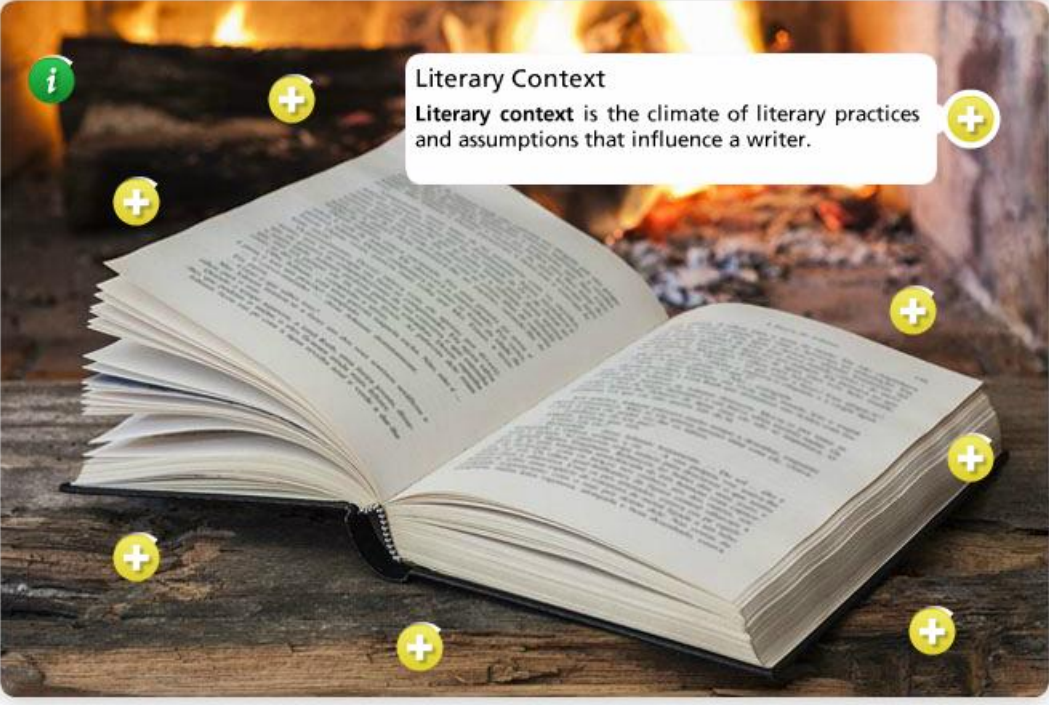
Diction refers to the choice of words. In describing a young man who is skinny, the word choice "slender" might convey a condition of health, whereas the word "gaunt" brings to mind someone who is sick or starving. Pay close attention to diction when analyzing poetry; it can help you identify the tone or attitude of the poem's speaker.

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Literary Context

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Literary Context
Literary context is the climate of literary practices and assumptions that influence a writer.

The image shows an open book with text on its pages, resting on a dark wooden surface. In the background, a fire is burning brightly in a fireplace. A white callout box with a black border is positioned over the book, containing the text 'Literary Context' and its definition. Several yellow circular icons with a white plus sign are scattered around the book, and a green circular icon with a white lowercase 'i' is located in the upper left corner of the image area.

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Speaker

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Speaker
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