

Literary Devices

Grade Level EALR/Component/GLE	Literary Device	Definition	Example
Grade: 2 EALR: 2 Component: 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Alliteration	The repetition of the same sound, usually of a consonant, at the beginning of two or more words of a sentence or line of poetry.	“Andrew Alligator always eats alphabet soup.”
Grade: 3 EALR: 2 Component: 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Alliterative Sentence	Repeating the same initial sound in two or more words of a sentence or line of poetry.	“The special spicy salami sandwich was scrumptious.”
Grade 7 EALR: 2 Component 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Analogy	A comparison of two pairs which have the same relationship. The key is to discover the relationship between the first so you can choose the correct second pair. Part to whole, opposites, and results of are types of relationships you should find.	Hot is to cold as fire is to ice. Finger it to hand as toe is to foot. Caring for a young puppy is like caring for a baby. Both need to have plenty of good food, sleep and love.
Grade: 5, 6, 7 EALR: 2 Component: 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Exaggeration	An overstatement or a stretching of the truth to emphasize a point.	I’m so hungry I could eat a horse.
Grade: 4, 6, 7 EALR: 2 Component: 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Humor	Generally broken into four categories: physical humor; humor of situation; humor involving play of language; humor of character.	Physical humor can be anything from slapstick for younger readers (a clumsy duck or nearsighted dog), to a character who dresses outrageously in middle grade novels. Humor of situation can be blatantly obvious about an elephant from outer space that crashes his spaceship into a suburban boy’s backyard or a teenager that accidentally pops a rubber band off their braces and it flies across the room. Play of language starts out as rhyming words in children’s poetry (often with nonsense words thrown in), and evolves into puns for 7-10 year olds. As young adults, humor often revolves around jokes often involving references to popular television shows or songs Funny characters in literature act in ways people or animals aren’t allowed to in real life. The main thing that changes with the age of the audience is the situation in which the character finds himself.
Grade: 4, 6, 7 EALR: 2 Component: 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Idiom	Words used in a special way that may be different from their literal meaning.	The days before my birthday party seem to move “at a snail’s pace” (very slowly).
Grade: 5, 6, 7 EALR: 2 Component: 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Imagery	Words or phrases that appeal to one or more of the five senses. Imagery is used to describe how their subjects look, sound, feel, taste, and smell.	The phrase “dust of snow” helps the reader <u>see</u> and <u>feel</u> snow that is light and powdery.

Grade: 6, 7 EALR: 2 Component: 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Irony	The use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning; the words say one thing, but mean another.	On an extremely hot day someone remarks, “Kind of chilly today isn’t it?”
Grade: 3, 4, 6, 7 EALR: 2 Component: 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Metaphor	A figure of speech that compares two things without using the word <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> .	My grandmother always told us that laughter is the best medicine.
Grade: 2, 3 EALR: 2 Component: 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Onomatopoeia	A term used to describe words whose pronunciations suggest their meaning.	Crunching snow, buzzing conversation, groaning wagon, zinging violin strings, jingling sleigh bells, hiss of whispers.
Grade: 4, 6 EALR: 2 Component: 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Personification	A figure of speech in which an idea, object or animal, is given human characteristics.	During the storm, fingers of lightning flashed across the sky and the wind howled outside the doors and windows.
Grade: 6, 7 EALR: 2 Component: 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Sarcasm	The use of praise to make fun of or “put down” someone or something. The praise is not sincere and is actually intended to hurt someone’s feelings.	Even though my jacket was patched in several places and worn thin at the elbows a classmate stopped me in the hallway and said, “What a nice jacket you’ve got on. Is that the latest style?”
Grade: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 EALR: 2 Component: 2.3 GLE: 2.3.3	Similes	A figure of speech comparing two unlike things usually using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> .	In the deserted cove, the water was as smooth as glass.