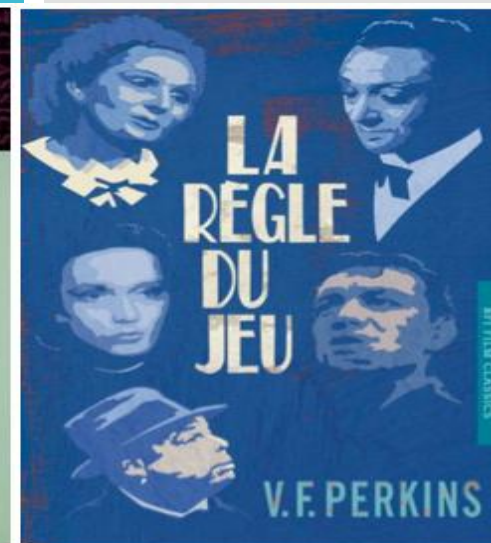
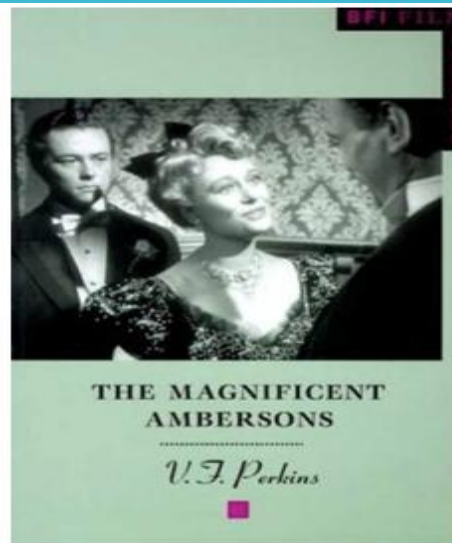
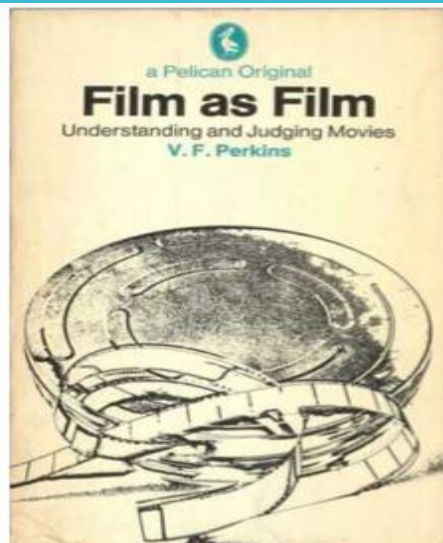
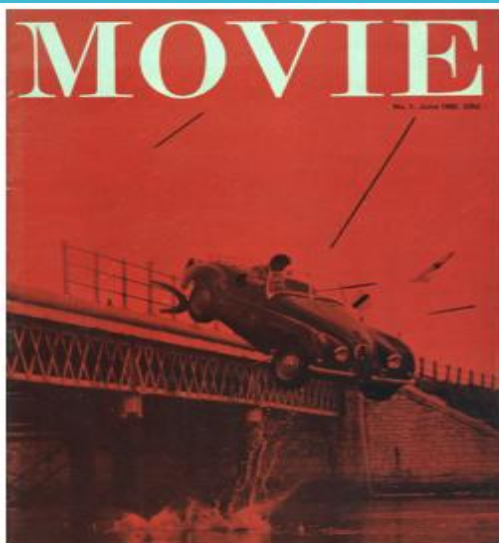


# Unit 5: Film Language (Cinematic and Literary Devices)



# Topic

- Definitions
- Why films need literary devices?
- Literary elements
- Narrative literary techniques or literary devices

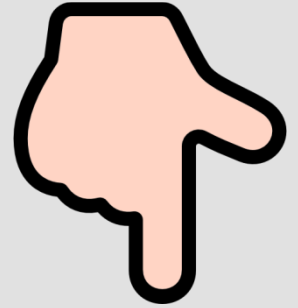
# Objectives

- Be able to explain what literary device is.
- Be able to recall different literary devices and their meanings and usage in film.
- Be able to apply general literary devices in film analysis and appreciation activities/ assignments.

# Definitions

What is literary device?

The typical structures used by writers in their works to convey his or her message(s) in a simple manner to his or her readers. When employed properly, the different literary devices help readers to appreciate, interpret and analyze a literary work.



# Why films need literary devices?

Film as art works- e.g. experimental/ documentary/ independent/ importance of mise-en-scene

Film as a reflection to society and culture at particular times

Film as technological work

Film as literature work

Discussion in films to understand work of literature

Film as industry- they have become the product bringing people to escapism

So, to fulfill these, literary devices are greatly important in making films to reflect, to convey social, cultural message, to entertain or even to fulfill need for artistic and spiritual consumption

# Literary elements

- Plot/discourse
- Setting (Time + Space /place)

- Protagonist
- Antagonist

Character

Visual design

Cinematographic design  
(use of camera)

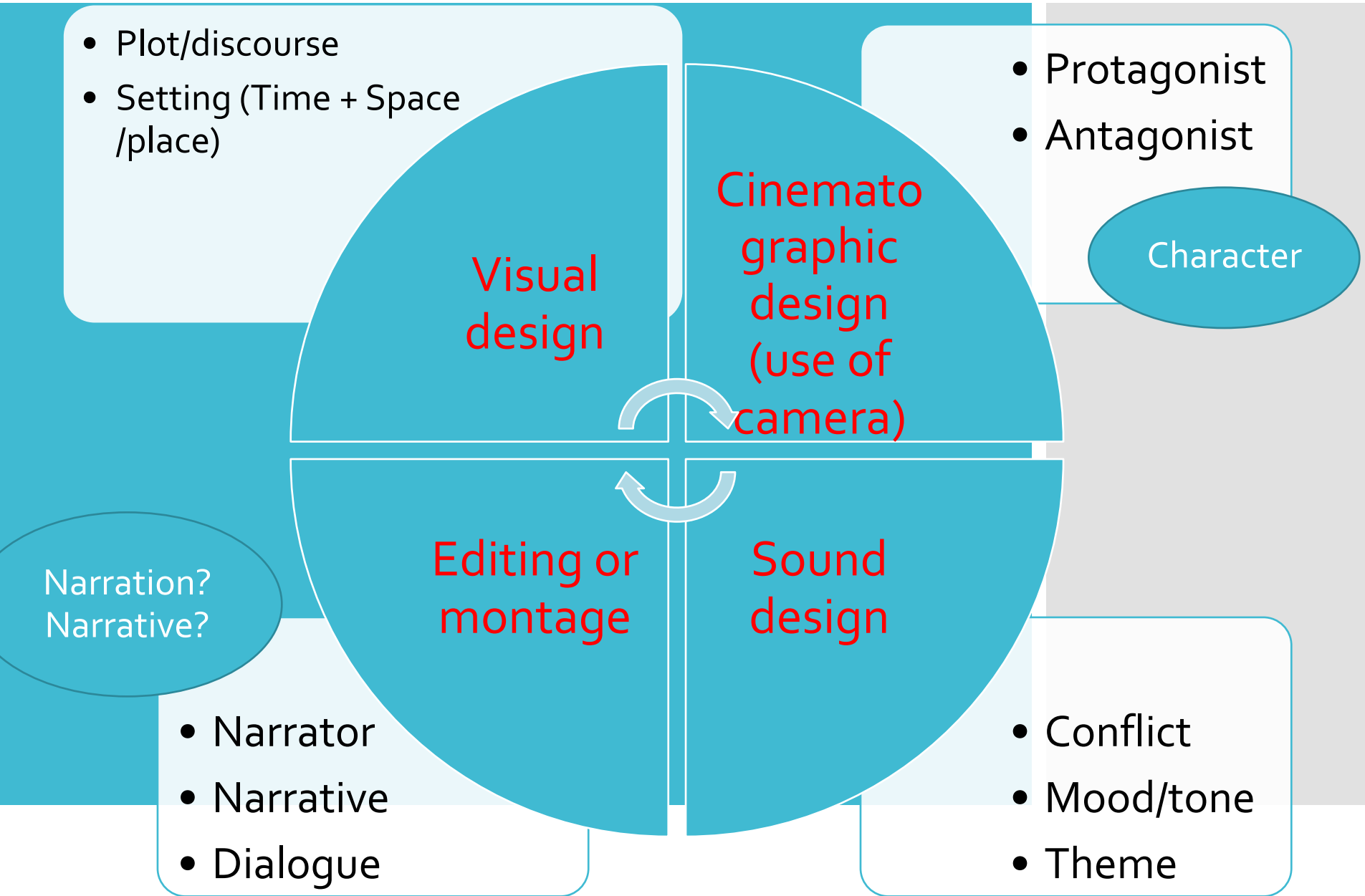
Editing or montage

Sound design

Narration?  
Narrative?

- Narrator
- Narrative
- Dialogue

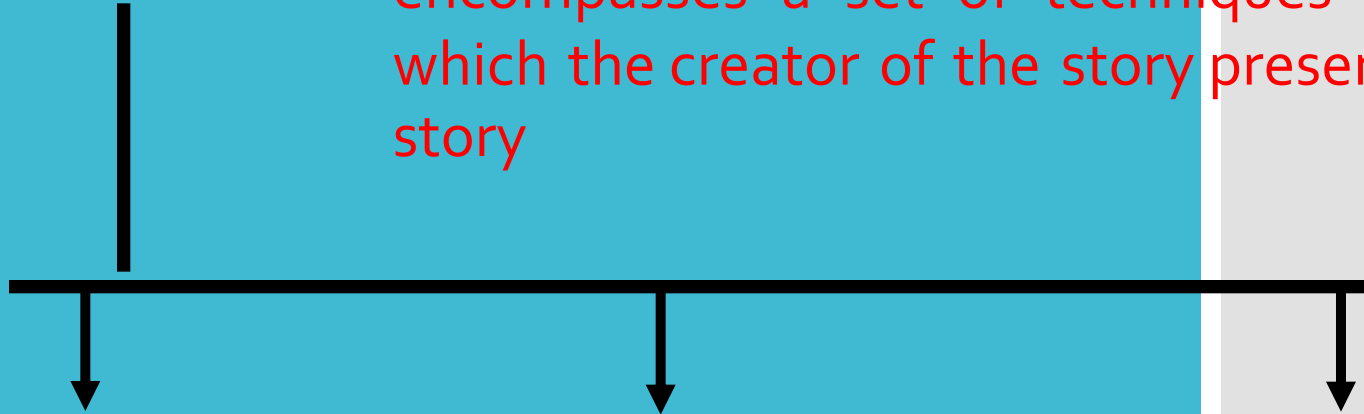
- Conflict
- Mood/tone
- Theme



# Narration

The use of a written or spoken commentary to convey a story to an audience. Narration encompasses a set of techniques through which the creator of the story presents their story

## Narration



### Narrative point of view

the perspective (or type of personal or non-personal "lens") through which a story is communicated.



### Narrative voice

the format through which a story is communicated- the most common is character voice/ first-second-third person voice / subjective, objective/ omniscient

### Narrative tense

the grammatical placement of the story's time-frame in the past, the present, or the future.

# First person

I had seen little of Holmes lately. My marriage had drifted us away from each other. My own complete happiness, and the home-centred interests which rise up around the man who first finds himself master of his own establishment, were sufficient to absorb all my attention, while Holmes, who loathed every form of society with his whole Bohemian soul, remained in our lodgings in Baker Street, buried among his old books, and alternating from week to week between cocaine and ambition, the drowsiness of the drug, and the fierce energy of his own keen nature.

*Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia*



Narrator is a character in the story



## Second person

What kind of circus is only open at night?" people ask. No one has a proper answer, yet as dusk approaches there is a substantial crowd of spectators gathering outside the gates.

You are amongst them, of course. Your curiosity got the better of you, as curiosity is wont to do. You stand in the fading light, the scarf around your neck pulled up against the chilly evening breeze, waiting to see for yourself exactly what kind of circus only opens once the sun sets.

*The Night Circus*

# Third person (sometimes is 'omniscient form')

The Dursleys hadn't even remembered that today happened to be Harry's twelfth birthday. Of course, his hopes hadn't been high; they'd never given him a real present, let alone a cake - but to ignore it completely...

## *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

### Third Person Omniscient Point of View

Brings to life and develops an entire world of characters.

Relates information about each character that the characters might not know about each other.

Useful for introducing the reader to a plethora of characters.



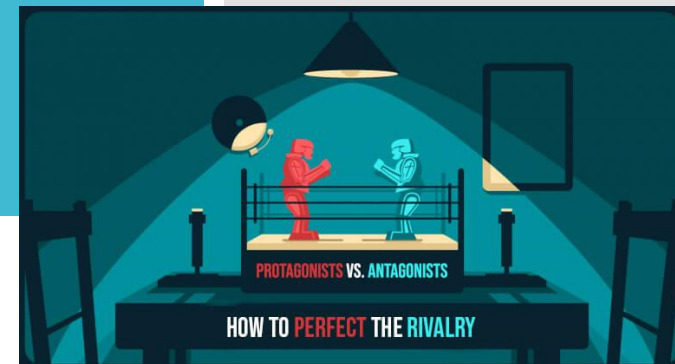
# Protagonist vs. Antagonist

## Protagonist

The protagonist of a story is its main character, who has the sympathy and support of the audience. This character tends to be involved in or affected by most of the choices or conflicts that arise in the narrative. For example, Snow White is the protagonist of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

## Antagonist

The opposite of the protagonist-- a character that opposes the main character.



# Conflict as a common literary element

A conflict is a common literary element that involves a struggle between two opposing forces. Those forces can take a variety of forms, and include several different combinations, including:

- Individual against individual (protagonist against the antagonist)
- Individual against nature
- Individual against society
- Individual against self
- Individual against technology



# Narrative literary techniques or literary devices



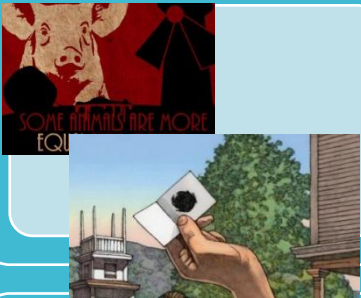
## Aesthetics

A method used to promote or educate readers/audiences about important artistic expression in society (knowledge of socio-culture is important).



## Symbolism

The use of concrete objects or people or places to stand for something else esp. abstract ideas/ concepts/ bigger ideas



## Allegory

Acts as an extended metaphor. It's not a single object but technique to reveal hidden messages or meanings. It actually presents the whole story.



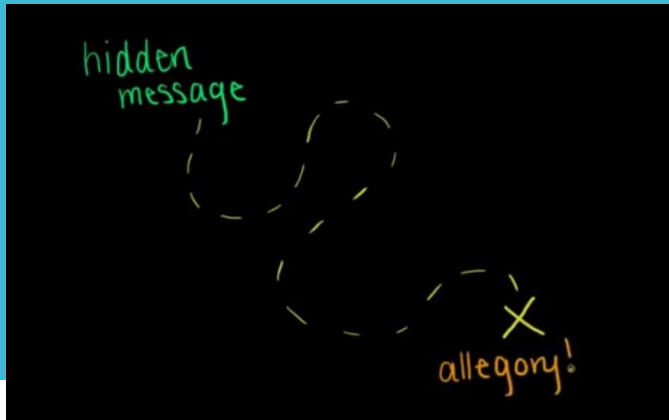
## Ambiguity

The possibility of a single word to have more than one meaning, making several interpretations plausible. A common aspect of ambiguity is uncertainty. Ambiguity can be a useful tool for creating humor.

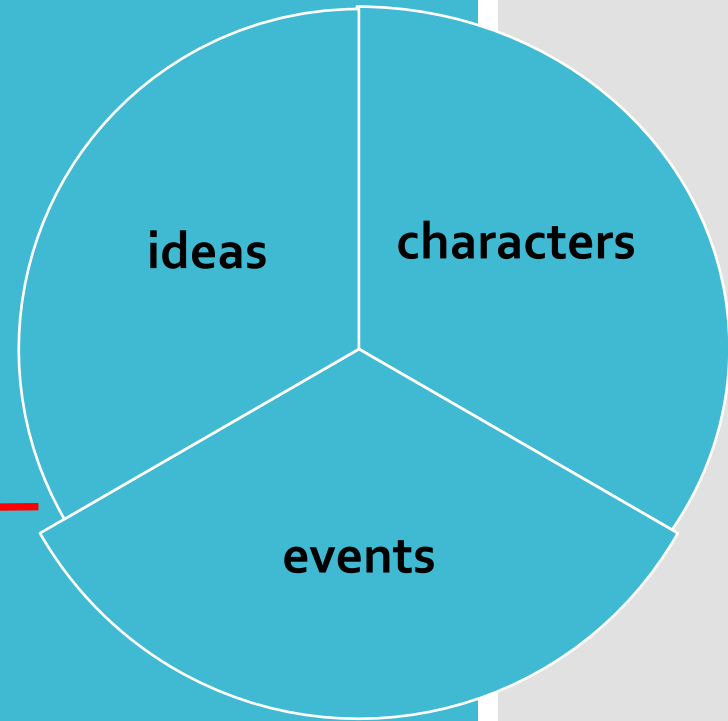
# Symbolism



*Childhood  
Innocence*



# Allegory



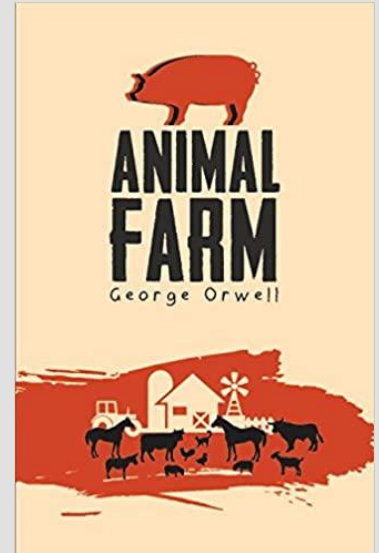
Larger  
concepts

Political, religious, historical, social

# Allegory in *Animal Farm* (Political Allegory)

*Animal Farm* explores themes of totalitarianism, the corruption of ideals, and the power of language.

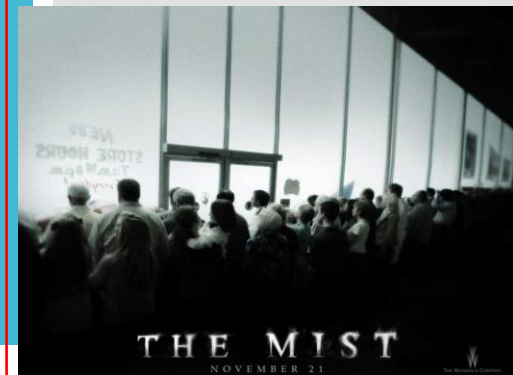
The film uses allegory through the animal characters, to convey political message



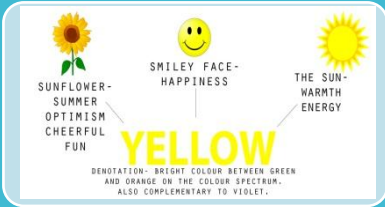
# Allegory in *The Mist*

The "mental mist" that clouds everyone's judgment is the real theme of the story: denial, frustration, despair

*The Mist* conveys themes of socio-political fear, using the socio-political allegory

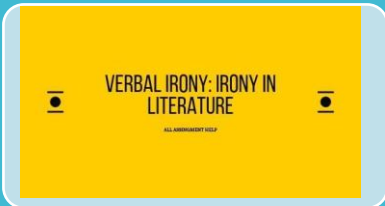


## Connotation



Signifying signs, or signs that are used as signifiers for a secondary (cultural) meaning, e.g., the word "rose" signifies passion (individual / cultural connotations) (Rose = fear/ Rose = Romance)

## Irony



Irony can mean the expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic or sarcastic effect.

## Metaphor



A metaphor compares words in a sentence. It says that one thing is another different thing.

## Motif



Motif reinforces the theme of a film. A motif is a symbolic image or idea that appears frequently in a story. Motifs can be symbols, sounds, actions, ideas, or words. Motifs strengthen a story by adding images and ideas to the theme present throughout the narrative. We use such as prop, location, pieces of things, line of dialogue to create symbols to convey theme message of film

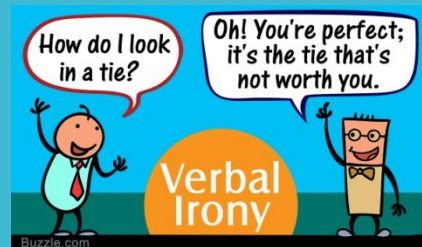


# Irony

“Irony” in storytelling involves technique making “a strong contrast”, and this contrast is unperceived by a character in a story (but we as the audience knows).

How we use them in film?

- To express satire or sarcasm
- To emphasize contrast between what character (s) say and the implicit meaning or to imply in other way by using language device
- To state what opposite the truth



# Irony

```
graph LR; Irony((Irony)) --> Verbal[Verbal Irony]; Irony --> Dramatic[Dramatic Irony]; Irony --> Situational[Situational Irony];
```

- **Verbal Irony:** A statement in which the implicit meaning intended by the speaker differs from that which he speaks
- Irony consists of saying one thing while we mean another.

- **Dramatic Irony:** A literary or film technique, originally used in Greek tragedy, by which the significance of a character's actions is clear to the audience or reader although unknown to the character.

- **Situational Irony:** Irony involving a situation in which actions have an effect that is opposite from what was intended, so that the outcome is contrary to what was expected.

# Metaphor

A metaphor compares words in a sentence. It says that one thing is another different thing.

*For example*

- Love is a rose.
- Her messy room was a swamp where toys disappeared.
- The book was his time machine, carrying him to a land of pirates.
- Time is money.
- Your brain is a computer.
- Your eyes are diamonds.
- You are my sunshine.

# Time is Money.



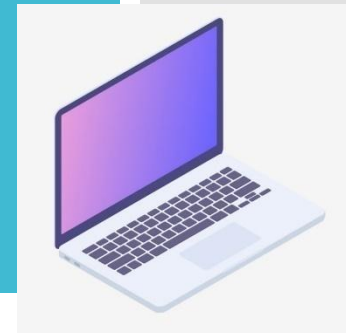
## Valuable



# Your brain is a computer.



## Functioning of both



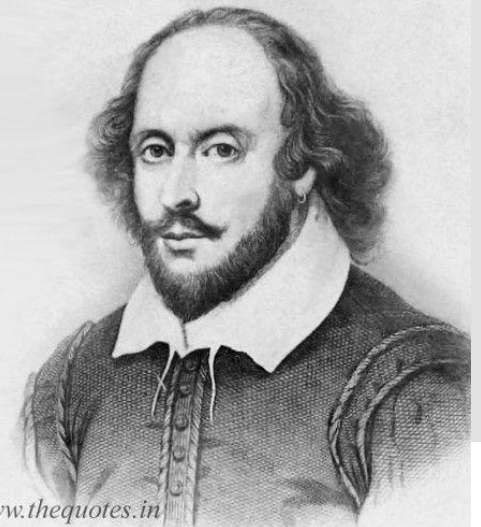
*What does this metaphor by William Shakespeare?*

*All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely  
players;*

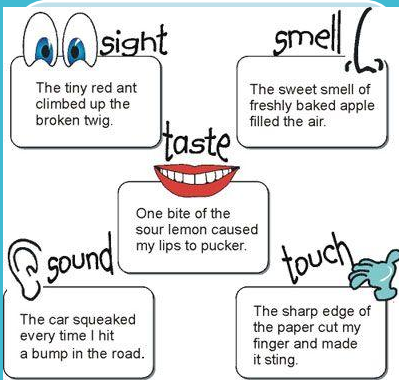
All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players: they have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages.

*William Shakespeare*

[www.thequotes.in](http://www.thequotes.in)



# Imagery



Imagery is language which evokes certain sensory experiences (sight-sound-touch-smell-taste)

# Foreshadowing



A literary device in which a writer gives an advance hint of what is to come later in the story. Foreshadowing often appears at the beginning of a story, and it helps the audience develop expectations about the upcoming events.

## Hyperbole Examples:

• I am so tired I could sleep for a year.



• His teeth were blinding white.

# Hyperbole

Exaggeration or exaggerated statements.

# Types of Imagery

## Visual imagery

E.g. "The golden rays of the setting sun reflected upon the clear waters of the lake."

**Olfactory imagery** (relating to the sense of smell)

E.g. "The stench of rotting garbage overpowered my nostrils when I opened the bin."

**Kinesthetic imagery** (relating to a person's awareness of physical movement)

E.g. "My toes went numb and a shiver ran through my body as I stepped into the cold river."

## Auditory imagery

E.g. "The roar of trees"  
"The crack of branches"  
"The trees rustled as the wind whistled gently through the leaves."

**Gustatory imagery** (relating to, affecting, associated with, or being the sense of taste gustatory nerves)

E.g. "Her mouth watered and her tongue burned as she bit into the sour, peppery mango chow."



# Great Expectations, Charles Dickens

Pip, the hero of *Great Expectations* by [Charles Dickens](#), clearly paints a wet and soggy scene. Not only was he soaked down to the bone, but he had to struggle through the fog that made things invisible for a time.

” It was a rimy morning, and very damp. I had seen the damp lying on the outside of my little window... Now, I saw the damp lying on the bare hedges and spare grass... On every rail and gate, wet lay clammy; and the marsh-mist was so thick, that the wooden finger on the post directing people to our village—a direction which they never accepted, for they never came there—was invisible to me until I was quite close under it.



# Hyperbole

Hyperbole is exaggeration or exaggerated statements.

We use hyperboles in speech and writing for effect. **Hyperbole brings particular attention to thought or ideas being expressed.** Hyperboles are not meant to be taken literally but **stand out and create emphasis.**

In summary, hyperboles are:

- extreme exaggerations
- used for emphasis/effect
- figurative language
- used sparingly with purpose

## *For example*

- I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.
- I haven't seen Jamien in ages.
- I told you a thousand times... I didn't do that!
- I have tons of papers to read!.
- I had tons of fun at the party last night.
- I had to wait in the station for ten days- an eternity.

# *Activity on Padlet*

Go to: <https://padlet.com/siripenyi/79e6ab19wzm83pnf>

## Symbolism and Metaphor *in American Beauty*

### Imagery

Find imagery language that evokes sight-  
sound-touch-smell-taste

# *Metaphorical Criticism of "American Beauty"*

- *The color 'red'*  
*The Metaphor of 'Red'*

Vs.

- *The garbage bag*

A satirical look at suburban life in the desire of Lester's household for happiness and new life.

An important part of metaphorical criticism is also to analyze the impact of these metaphors on the viewer

– does it portray the message that is intended to be conveyed and how effectively is this message conveyed?

## *The plastic bag (the garbage bag) as the metaphor*

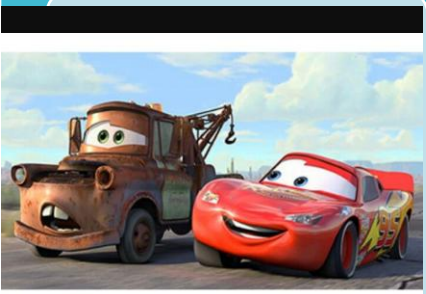
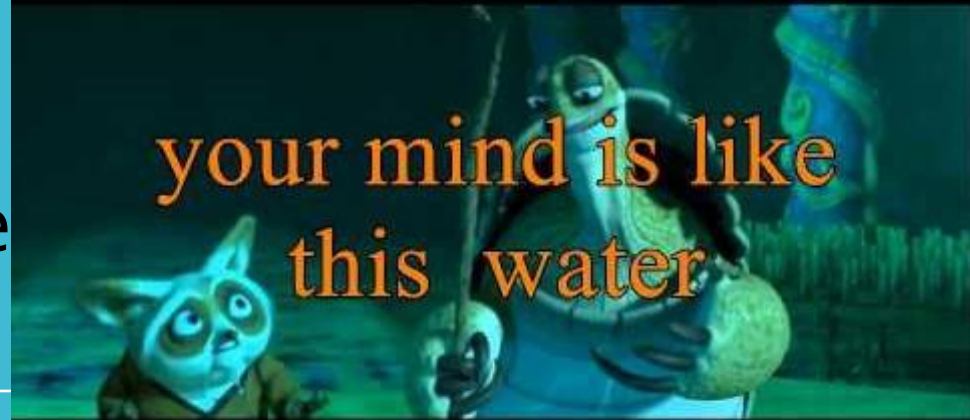
The film conveys the sense of everything that has been missed, the element of regret, through the use of yet another tenor – garbage. While garbage is perceived as wasteful and worth discarding, the character of Ricky finds beauty in it. He has filmed a piece of plastic dancing in the wind and he says that the bag “is the most beautiful thing I have ever filmed.” (American Beauty). He is so moved by the beauty he sees in this piece of plastic that he tells Jane, Lester’s daughter; “Sometimes there is so much beauty in the world, I feel like I can’t take it in, my heart’s just going to cave in.” (American Beauty).

Through the vehicle of the plastic bag, the film conveys the message that beauty and happiness can be found even in a piece of garbage – i.e., where one least expects it. The piece of plastic swirls around and around, it can be blown away by the wind any minute and this signifies that happiness is transient. The plastic is dancing in the wind, twirling and swirling with glee, but the happy freedom could disappear any moment. So is life... and through the tenor of garbage, the film reveals that happiness must be grabbed wherever it can be found, even in the most unlikely places – and it must be cherished because it could disappear any moment.



## Simile

A figure of spe



## Personification

It occurs when a  
(human qualities  
objects, nature o



## Allusion

A literary device that references a person, place, thing, or event in the real world.





# Similes

A simile is a figure of speech that uses comparison. In a simile, we use two specific words **“like”** and **“as”** to compare two unlikely things, that actually have nothing in common (*compare two different things by saying “one thing is like the other.”*)

*For example*

He is as clever as a fox.

She is as brave as a lion.

..... quite like a mouse.

..... as tall as a mountain.

..... as strong as an ox.

.....precious like an angel.

He was as fast as a sports car.

His hair was spiky like the top of a pineapple.

Sitting through that lecture was like watching the grass grow.

You're as light as a feather.





# Personification

It occurs when a writer gives human traits (human qualities) to non-human or inanimate objects, nature or ideas/ emotions.

*For example (Object/ Nature)*

- The **lonely** lighthouse **vigilantly** shined its light to **warn** ships away from its rocky coast.
- The house **greeted** us **warmly**.
- The wind **whistled** throughout the day.
- The stars in the clear night sky **winked** at me.
- The **angry** clouds **blew** the birds from the sky.
- Drugs **dragged** him into hell.
- The brown grass **was begging for water**.



## *For example (Animals)*

- The two fishes danced around each other.
- The cat was smiling at me.



*For example (Ideas/ Emotions)*

- Fear began to **tap dance** in my heart.
- Beliefs **slowly crept over** her.
- Justice is **blind** and, at times, **deaf**.
- Money is the only **friend** that I can count on.
- The world does not **care** to **hear** your sad stories.
- This city never **sleeps**.
- The silence **crept into** the classroom.
- The party **died** as soon as she left.

# Allusions in Life of Pi

For example

The poem "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge--- the ocean scenes

"Water, water everywhere, but no drop to drink.."

Religious allusions such as Pi's references to Biblical Characters and events, including Jesus, Noah, and Cain, and Hindu gods

Pi's references to other people in history such as Columbus and Darwin, for example.

During this weekend, please watch:

1. *Greed* (search for ดูหนัง *Greed* in the Internet), in case that you can find it in Netflix, it's better watch there.

<https://movie2uhd.com/greed.php>

2. *The Mist* (it's in Thai), in case that you can find it in Netflix, it's better watch there.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLX4CmMpqng>



You make take note and try linking with the lesson. We will talk about them on Monday.