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## TOPIC: LITERARY DEVICES

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**SUBJECT:** LITERATURE - LANGUAGE

**LEVEL/AGE:** 14-15 years old

**FOREKNOWLEDGE:** Writing skills to produce short text, Advanced reading comprehension

**LENGTH:** 8 PAGES (DURATION: 100 MINUTES)

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## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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At the end of this lesson, the students will know:

- Name of the main literary devices.
- Understand complex literary texts.
- Understand the purpose of each literary device and how to use them.
- Write a short text with literary devices.



### RESOURCES

Introductory video  
Poems by various  
authors (Hugues,  
Wordsworth, Dickinson,  
Blake)

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## TEACHING METHODS

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Lecture courses, writing exercises, video,  
worksheet

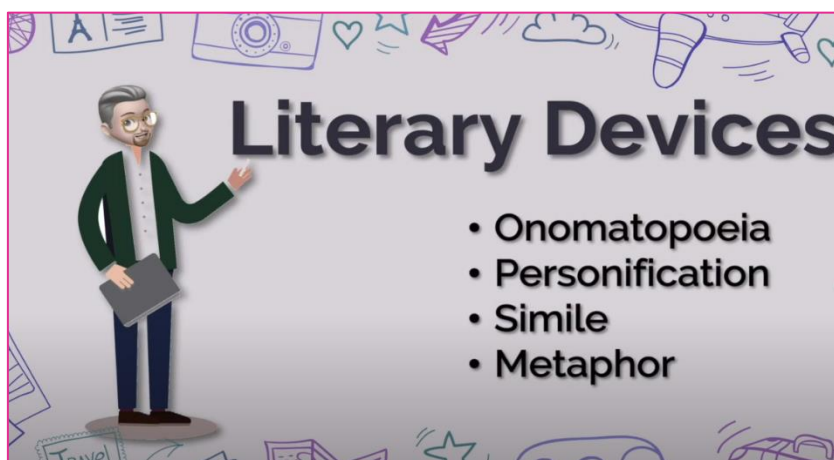
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## ACTIVITIES

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### INTRODUCTION (5-10 minutes)

The lesson starts with a video ("[ESL - Literary Devices \(Onomatopoeia, Personification, Simile, and Metaphor](#)", Englishing) introducing literary devices, so that the students have an overview of the main literary devices with visual examples to illustrate the definition.



### THEORY PART (20 minutes)

The teacher mainly focuses on the main literary devices and explains the difference between metaphor and simile, personification and allegory, alliteration and assonance, anaphora and epiphora, oxymoron and antithesis. The teacher gives the definition and the purpose of each literary device. It could be great to give examples for each definition too.

### HANDS-ON PART (15 minutes)

In this activity, the students must write a short text on their last vacation. They must use some literary devices they learned in the previous part of the lesson. For example, they must use one simile, one oxymoron and two alliterations. The teacher asks for examples and students read some of their sentences, which can be corrected if necessary.

**EXERCISE PART** (30 minutes)

## 1. Connect the literary devices with the right definition.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Metaphor •        | • Two words or phrases used together that have, or seem to have, opposite meanings.   |
| Anaphora •        | • A figure of speech that describes a person or object by referring to another person or object that is considered to have similar characteristics. |
| Personification • | • A figure of speech that gives a human quality or characteristic to something which is not human.  |
| Oxymoron •        | • A figure of speech that repeats the same word at the start of several sentences to achieve an effect.   |

2. Highlight metaphors in green and similes in yellow in the following poems (find more on the [Poetry Foundation website](#)).**“Dreams”** by Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

**“Hope is the thing with feathers”** by Emily Dickinson

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -  
That perches in the soul -  
And sings the tune without the words -  
And never stops - at all -  
  
And sweetest - in the gale - is heard -  
And sore must be the storm -  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm  
  
I've heard it in the chilliest land -  
And on the strangest sea -  
Yet - never - in extremity,  
It asked a crumb - of me.

**“I wandered lonely as a cloud”** by William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.  
  
Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the Milky Way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance. [...]

What have you understood of these poems? Explain the meaning of one of them in a short text:

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3. Highlight the consonants and the vowels repeated in the following poems. What are the literary devices in this poem? What is the difference between those literary devices?

**“The Tyger”** by William Blake

Tyger tyger, burning bright,  
In the forests of the night;  
What immortal hand or eye,  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies  
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings dare he aspire?  
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art,  
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?  
And when thy heart began to beat.  
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

[...]

Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

What sort of feelings does it convey? Why? Explain.

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**4.** Complete the text with adjectives of your choice to form antithesis.

“The garden is gloomy and ....., I have a shiver of excitement and fear. Something beautiful and ..... is hidden in its heart. I walk in its sinuous and ..... paths, my eyes riveted to the river surface where the stars reflect brightly and ..... I wonder what sad and ..... secrets are buried in its bed.”

**5.** Choose the right literary devices for each example.

**a.** He shines like stars.

- Metaphor
- Simile
- Personification

**b.** The silver snake slithers towards the sea.

- Onomatopoeia
- Oxymoron
- Alliteration

**c.** The castle towers in the gray sky. The castle is gigantic with its turrets and sinuous ramparts. The castle seems dangerous.

- Anaphora
- Epiphora
- Allegory

d. The sea rocks me like a mother.

- Antithesis
- Assonance
- Personification

e. Her joke is seriously funny.

- Metaphor
- Oxymoron
- Euphemism

### CONCLUSION (20 minutes)

The teacher checks the right answers and explains the exercises. One of the poems used in the worksheet is chosen and the teacher analyses the text noticing each literary device and their meaning.

### SYNTHESIS/SUMMARY (5 minutes)

#### Keep in mind!

**METAPHOR:** A figure of speech that describes a person or object by implicitly referring to something that is considered to have similar characteristics to that person or object.

**SIMILE:** A figure of speech that compares two things, including the words "like" or "as".

**ALLITERATION:** The similarity in sound between two syllables that are close together, created by the same consonants (e.g. "back" and "beg").

**ASSONANCE:** The similarity in sound between two syllables that are close together, created by the same vowels (e.g. "back" and "hat").

**ANAPHORA:** A figure of speech that repeats the same word at the start of several sentences to achieve an effect.

**EPIPHORA:** A figure of speech that repeats the same word at the end of several sentences to achieve an effect.

**ANTITHESIS:** A figure of speech that places opposite words, ideas or qualities parallel to each other, to create contrast, greater emphasis and clarity.

**OXYMORON:** Two words or phrases used together that have or seem to have opposite meanings.

**ALLEGORY:** A figure of speech where events or characters represent ideas or qualities related to morals, religion or politics.

**PERSONIFICATION:** A figure of speech that gives a human quality or characteristic to something which is not human.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY & RESOURCES

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