



Macbeth †

Literary Devices Poster, Model, or Booklet

Objective: *Students will create a visual depiction of Shakespeare's use of language that establishes mood and atmosphere, and reinforces his theme.*

Directions for the assignment:

1. Find a specific passage that clearly exemplifies
 - ‡ 6 **figurative** devices.
 - ‡ 2 **rhetorical** devices
2. Clearly identify the Act, scene, line(s), speaker(s) and circumstance (what is happening at that point in the play)
3. Explain the significance of the literary device in terms of developing plot, theme, and character. How does Shakespeare's use of literary devices help the audience understand the play?
4. Create a poster/model/booklet with graphic visuals depicting each device, and a written account that explains how it works in the play (#2, 3, & 4 above)
5. Your poster should reflect the mood and atmosphere of the play (blood, darkness, horror, evil...).

These are the common literary devices used in Shakespeare:

Figurative Devices (appeals to the mind)

‡ **Antithesis:** language notable for its reference to opposites ("Fair is foul and foul is fair")

‡ **Imagery:** descriptive words that have visual appeal or create word pictures

• **hyperbole:** emphasis achieved by deliberate exaggeration.

e.g. I was scared to death!

• **metaphor:** a comparison between two things that is suggested or implied.

e.g. All the world's a stage.

• **oxymoron:** combination of two apparently contradictory words.

e.g. O loving hate!

• **personification:** gives inanimate objects or abstract ideas human qualities.

e.g. Death, be not proud.

• **simile:** a direct comparison between things, using the words as or like.

‡ **Euphemism:** to express a disagreeable or unpleasant fact in agreeable language; note Macbeth's soliloquy in Act 1.7

‡ **Ambiguity:** statements that can have more than one meaning; note Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's exchange in Act 1.5

‡ **Dramatic Irony:** describes a situation in which the audience knows something important that the character does not; in Act 1.4, the audience understands the irony in Duncan's speech

‡ **Verbal Irony (Sarcasm):** expresses an opposite meaning to the stated one; a hidden meaning lies beneath the surface statement; (Note Lennox in 3.6)

‡ **Paradox:** a statement that, although it appears self-contradictory, contains a basis of truth in it.
e.g. More haste, less speed



Rhetorical Devices (engages the ear)

- 🔗 **Alliteration:** the repetition of consonant sounds, usually at the beginning of words.
e.g. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
- 🔗 **Assonance:** the close repetition of similar vowel sounds, usually in stressed syllables.
e.g. Twinkle, twinkle, little star
- 🔗 **Repetition:** the repeating of a key word, phrase, or lines of a poem in order to emphasize its importance.
e.g. Alone, alone, all, all, alone,
Alone on a wide, wide sea!

- 🔗 **Onomatopoeia:** imitative harmony; the use of words whose sounds seem to express or reinforce their meanings.
e.g. Over the cobbles, he clattered and clashed in the dark inyard.
Words such as hiss, bang, meow, moo, crash, smack, etc...

Evaluation:

1. Content (paragraphs should be 8-9 sentences in length)

Figurative devices

- ___ 1st figurative device: ___ integrate quote, ___ scene details, ___ explanation of significance
- ___ 2nd figurative device: ___ integrate quote, ___ scene details, ___ explanation of significance
- ___ 3rd figurative device: ___ integrate quote, ___ scene details, ___ explanation of significance
- ___ 4th figurative device: ___ integrate quote, ___ scene details, ___ explanation of significance
- ___ 5th figurative device: ___ integrate quote, ___ scene details, ___ explanation of significance
- ___ 6th figurative device: ___ integrate quote, ___ scene details, ___ explanation of significance

Rhetorical devices

- ___ 7th rhetorical device: ___ integrate quote, ___ scene details, ___ explanation of significance
- ___ 8th rhetorical device: ___ integrate quote, ___ scene details, ___ explanation of significance

/6 /24

2. Creativity and Style (appropriate presentation of mood & theme)

/6 /12

3. Written Mechanics and Structure (spelling, grammar, vocabulary, syntax)

/6 /12

TOTAL

/48

Comments: