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| Figterm | Figdefinition | FigExample |
| **Alliteration** | The repetition of beginning consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words or syllables | The wild and woolly walrus waits and wonders when we'll walk by. |
| **Imagery** | Using detailed description to encourage the reader to experience the five senses through reading. Imagery helps readers create mental pictures. | I could hear the leaves crunching under my feet as I walked through the quiet forest. The trees with their bold-colored leaves of red, yellow, orange, and green were a beautiful picture. The air was slightly crisp – not cold enough for a coat, but just cold enough for my light sweater. |
| **Hyperbole** | A big exaggeration used to get a point across | I stood in line for a million years! This cat weighs a ton! |
| **Idiom** | A phrase where the words together have a meaning different from the individual definitions of the words. These expressions are used figuratively – not literally. | She sings at the top of her lungs. *(she is singing loudly, but not LITERALLY standing on her lungs singing)*  It’s raining cats and dogs. (*it’s raining very hard – cats and dogs aren’t LITERALLY falling from the sky.)* |
| **Metaphor** | Comparing two usually unlike things without using “like” or “as” | Her emotions were a maze of confusion. Her hair is silk. |
| **Onomatopoeia** | Naming a thing or an action by imitating the sound associated with it | buzz, hiss, roar, woof |
| **Personification** | Giving human qualities to non-human things | The rain pounded on the roof during the storm. *(rain doesn’t have hands, so it can’t “pound” but the sound resembles fists pounding, so it’s given that quality.)* |
| **Simile** | A figure of speech comparing two unlike things using “like” or “as” | The sun is like a yellow ball of fire in the sky.  Under pressure, he is as cool as a cucumber. |
| **Jargon** | Specialized abbreviations (or sometimes words) unique to a certain group or profession (job); people outside of this group or job might not understand the abbreviations; makes communication more efficient | At Lakeview: BIST, ISS, OSS, RTI  Doctors: STAT, MRI, CAT-scan  Teenagers/texters: BRB, LOL, SMH, ROFL |
| **Dialect** | The way people speak based on where they live – their accent, how they pronounce words, and usage of certain words and phrases unique to an area, and distinguished from other varieties of the same language by pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary | In the southern United States, the word "y'all" and a drawn out way of speaking are characteristic of some types of the southern dialect. In New England the tendency to drop or add an "r" would be another example - saying words like "pahk" instead of "park" or "tuner" for "tuna." |
| **Slang** | Informal language used with peers – not appropriate in more formal settings; slang words/phrases generally change with time and what is popular, Some slang terms have staying power as slang, but others make a transition into common informal speech, and then into the standard language. | Slang with staying power: cool, awesome  Current slang: dime, twerk, bae  Slang that is becoming or is outdated: Ratchet, bling, swag |
| **Symbolism** | The practice or art of using an object or a word to represent an abstract idea. An action, person, place, word, or object can all have a symbolic meaning. When an author wants to suggest a certain mood or emotion, he can also use symbolism to hint at it, rather than just coming out and saying it. | Flag=freedom, states/colonies  Rose=love  Cross=faith, religion  Colors can be symbols: black - evil or death; white - purity and life; red - passion and anger |