Rhetorical Devices

Rhetorical device = a linguistic tool that employs a particular type of sentence structure, sound, or pattern of meaning in order to evoke a particular reaction from an audience.

Rhetorical Device	Definition	Purpose	Example
Alliteration	The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.	It creates a mood or rhythm in the **text** that enhances the pleasure of reading a literary piece. It makes reading and recitation of the poems attractive and appealing.	I have heard how hedgehogs hog the hedge.
Cacophony	A harsh discordant mixture of sounds.	It is used as a tool to describe a discordant situation using discordant words. The **use** of such words allows readers to picture and feel the unpleasantness of the situation the writer has described through words.	His fingers rapped and pounded the door, and his foot thumped against the floor.
Onomatopoeia	The formation of a word from a sound associated with what is name.	Helps readers to **hear** the sound of the words they reflect. Hence, the reader cannot help but enter the world created by the poet with the aid of these words.	The bells went ding.
Hyperbole	The use of exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.	Will often be **used** to show contrast or catch the reader's attention. It also uses extreme exaggeration to make a point or show emphasis.	His teeth were blinding white.
Personification	The attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something nonhuman, or the representation of an abstract quality in human form.	It can make descriptions of non-human entities more vivid, and can help readers **understand**, sympathize, or react emotionally to non-human characters.	The car danced across the icy road.
Allusion	An expression designed to call something to mind without mentioning it explicitly; an indirect or passing reference.	It can be used as a straightforward device to enhance a text by providing further **meaning**, but it can also be used in a more complex sense to make an ironic comment on one thing by comparing it to something that is dissimilar.	Zeb had a smile that rivaled that of Mona Lisa.

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Information gathered from “What is a Rhetorical Device?” Jeffrey Somers.