Rhetorical/Literary devices & Syntactical devices

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
RHETORICAL/LITERARY DEVICES

- Metonymy
- Synecdoche
- Allusion
- Imagery
- Simile
- Metaphor
- Hyperbole
SYNTACTICAL DEVICES

- Asyndeton
- Polysyndeton
- Parallelism
- Anaphora
- Anastrophe
- Loose sentence
- Periodic sentence
**Metonymy**

- **Definition**: A figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated.
  - From the Greek for “change of name”
  - Adjective form: Metonymic
COMMON METONYMIES

- **Product for Producer**
  - He bought a *Ford*.
  - He’s got a *Picasso*.

- **Object Used for User**
  - The *sax* has the flu today.
  - The *buses* are on strike.

- **Controller for Controlled**
  - *Napoleon* lost at Waterloo.
  - A Mercedes rear-ended *me*.

- **Institution for People Responsible**
  - *Exxon* has raised its prices again.
  - You’ll never get the *university* to agree to that.

- **The Place for the Institution**
  - The *White House* isn’t saying anything.
  - *Wall Street* is in a panic.

- **The place for the Event**
  - Remember the *Alamo*.
  - *Watergate* changed our politics.
SYNECDOCHE

Definition: A special case of metonymy that uses a part in place of the whole, or vice versa.
  • From the Greek for “simultaneous understanding”

We need a couple of strong bodies for our team. (= strong people)

There are a lot of good heads in the university. (= intelligent people)

I've got a new set of wheels. (= car, motorcycle, etc.)

We've got some new blood in the organization. (= new people)
ALLUSION

Definition: is a figure of speech that makes a reference to, or representation of, a place, event, literary work, myth, or work of art, either directly or by implication.
- Derived from “allude” which means to refer to indirectly.
**Imagery**

- **Definition**: the collection of images within a literary work, used to evoke atmosphere, mood, or tension.
- Evokes a sensory and/or emotional response.
**Simile**

- **Definition**: is a figure of speech that indirectly compares two different things by employing the words “like,” “as,” or “than.”

- **Examples**:
  - He fights like a lion.
  - He was as tough as a bull.
  - "I'm happier than a tornado in a trailer park.”
**Metaphor**

- **Definition**: is a figure of speech that constructs an analogy between two things or ideas; it is conveyed by use of a metaphorical word in place of some other word.
  - From the Greek meaning “Transfer.”

- **Examples**:
  - "Her eyes were glistening jewels"
  - Extended metaphor: one primary metaphor is then developed further.
    - Ex: “All the world is a stage and men and women are merely players.”
HYPERBOLE

Definition: is the use of exaggeration as a rhetorical device or figure of speech. It may be used to evoke strong feelings or to create a strong impression, but is not meant to be taken literally.
- From the Greek meaning “exaggeration”

Examples:
- “The bag weighed a ton”
S Y N T A C T I C A L  D E V I C E S

- Asyndeton
- Polysyndeton
- Parallelism
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**ASYNDETON**

- **Definition**: is a stylistic scheme in which conjunctions are deliberately omitted from a series of related clauses.
  - From the Greek meaning “unconnected”.

- **Purposes**:
  - Speeds up rhythm of a passage.
  - Create dramatic effect.
Examples:

- “I came, I saw, I conquered” (Julius Caesar)
- “…government of the people, by the people, for the people” (Lincoln)
- “we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty” (JFK)
POLYSYNDETON

Definition: is the use of several conjunctions in close succession, especially where some might be omitted. It’s the opposite of asyndeton.

Purposes:

- Increase rhythm of prose
- Speed or slow its pace
- Convey solemnity, ecstasy or even childlike exuberance
Examples:

- And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. (Genesis 7:22-24)
- "I said, 'Who killed him?' and he said 'I don't know who killed him, but he's dead all right,' and it was dark and there was water standing in the street and no lights or windows broke and boats all up in the town and trees blown down and everything all blown and I got a skiff and went out and found my boat where I had her inside Mango Key and she was right only she was full of water" (Ernest Hemingway)
- "And the German will not be able to help themselves from imagining the cruelty their brothers endured at our hands, and our boot heels, and the edge of our knives. And the Germans, will be sickened by us. And the Germans, will talk about us. And the Germans, will fear us. And when the Germans close their eyes at night, and their subconscious tortures them for the evil they’ve done, it will be with thoughts of us, that it tortures them with." Lieutenant Aldo Raine
- *Inglorious Basterds*
PARALLELISM

- **Definition**: Giving two or more parts of the sentences a similar form so as to give the whole a definite pattern.

- **Examples**:
  - "The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessing; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries." (W. Churchill)
  - "Live in your world, play in ours."
    (Advertising slogan for Sony PlayStation 2)
ANAPHORA

**Definition:** is a rhetorical device that consists of repeating a sequence of words at the beginning of neighboring clauses, thereby leanding them emphasis.

**Examples:**

- What the hammer? what the chain? In what furnace was thy brain? What the anvil? What dread grasp dare its deadly terrors clasp? (William Blake)
- “We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be...” (W. Churchill)
ANASTROPHE

Definition: is a figure of speech involving an inversion of a language’s ordinary order of words.

Examples:
- Yoda from Star Wars commonly uses anastrophe: “Told you, I did.” and “Reckless is he.”
LOOSE SENTENCE

- **Definition:** A sentence structure in which a main clause is followed by subordinate phrases and clauses.

- **Examples:**
  - He went into town to buy groceries, visit his friends, and to go to the bookstore.
PERIODIC SENTENCE

Definition: A long and frequently involved sentence, marked by suspended syntax, in which the sense is not completed until the final word—usually with an emphatic climax.

Examples:

- "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” (The King James Bible, I Corinthians 13)