

**Figure 12.1 Common Literary Devices for K-6**

Term	Definition	Example
Allegory	Story used to teach something, usually long and requiring analysis to find the intention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parables in the Bible</li> <li>• Aesop’s Fables</li> </ul>
Alliteration	Occurs when the author uses the same letter or sound to start each word in a string; used frequently in books for emergent readers, in part to foster phonemic awareness	<i>Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.</i>
Allusion	Reference to a well-known person, myth, or historical event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bobby’s personal Kryptonite was fudge candy.</i></li> <li>• <i>It’s as bad as the sinking of the Titanic.</i></li> </ul>
Flashback	Pauses the action to comment or portray a scene that took place earlier in order to provide more detail about the present character, setting, or plot	During a scene in which a person walks through a dark alley, the author pauses to relate a story about another time the character was scared.
Foreshadowing	Hint of things to come—usually, but not always, an unpleasant event	In the beginning of <i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i> , there is a dog fight that hints of future conflict.
Hyperbole	An overstatement or exaggeration that is used for effect and is not meant to be taken literally	<i>As he looked with disappointment at the ten candles on his birthday cake, Andrew said, “It will take forever before I can drive a car.”</i>
Irony	Uses sophisticated humor in relaying a message, often saying what something is when the opposite or reverse could be true; authors use irony to say one thing when they mean another.	<i>James looks at the shark bite out of his surfboard and says, “Great! Now I finally have the short board I always wanted.”</i>
Metaphor	Comparison in which one thing is said to be another; in contrast with similes, metaphors make a direct statement and do not use “like” or “as” to make the comparison.	<i>The dog’s fur was electric, standing on end.</i>
Onomatopoeia	A word that makes the sound that it represents	boing, buzz, clank, crack, grunt, hiccup, hoot, pitter-patter, screech, splat, tick-tock, whirl, zap
Personification	Animals, ideas, or actions possess the qualities of humans.	<i>Worry had Matty trapped in its arms.</i>

Term	Definition	Example
Point of View— First Person	Told from the perspective of the narrator, and we readers cannot know or witness anything the narrator does not tell us.	<i>I walked down the dusty lane, listening to the lazy sound of cicadas carried on the warm breeze.</i>
Point of View— Second Person	The narrator speaks directly to the reader.	<i>You will likely know by now that Andre is a bad guy.</i>
Point of View— Third Person	Narrator can convey different perspectives at different times and often shifts to different characters' perspectives (third person omniscient or all-knowing), or narrator tells the story as an outsider but from only one person's perspective (third person limited).	<i>He walked to the store, not looking for anything in particular. Once inside, James waited for a sign.</i>
Simile	Statement in which two things are compared and said to be like or as another	<i>Like a rain-filled cloud, Anna cried and cried when she learned of her lost fortune.</i>
Symbolism	Object or action that means something more than its literal meaning	A white dove in a poem conveys peace or life.
Tone and Mood	An author presents an attitude and manner of a subject or character as related through dialogue, settings, or descriptions	Hateful, serious, humorous, sarcastic, solemn, objective