

# Craft Lesson #2: Amplifying Emotion



There is a whole suite of tools meant to help amplify emotion when writing or speaking, including those that follow.

## HYPERBOLE

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Hyperbole is extreme exaggeration. It adds emotion by showing how strong your feelings are about a given subject.

Example: *The very last inch of space was filled.*

## JUXTAPOSITION

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Juxtaposition happens when you put two contrasting things next to each other to emphasize the difference between them. The comparison of opposing details can make the emotional impact stronger.

Example: *The lamplight in the Store gave a soft make-believe feeling to our world. . . . In those tender mornings, the Store was full of laughing, joking, boasting, and bragging. . . . In the dying sunlight, the people dragged, rather than their empty sacks. . . . The sounds of the new morning had been replaced with grumbles about cheating houses, weighted scales, snakes, skimpy cotton, and dusty rows.*

## SYMBOLISM

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A symbol is something that stands for something else. When used well, symbols can add depth of emotion to a piece by adding the emotions commonly associated with something else.

Example: *Each year, I watched the field across from the Store turn caterpillar green, then gradually frosty white.*

## ALLUSION

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An allusion is a reference to some other story, person, or thing. It adds emotions by evoking emotions already tied to the other story, person, or thing.

Example: *“To be allowed, no, invited, into the private lives of strangers, and to share their joys and fears, was to exchange the Southern bitter wormwood for a cup of mead with Beowulf or a hot cup of tea and milk with Oliver Twist.”*

## YOU TRY

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Pick a topic that evokes emotions in you. It can be anything from great joy to anger to calmness to sadness (or some combination). Write a paragraph of at least eight lines about it; use and label each device (hyperbole, juxtaposition, symbolism, and allusion) at least once.