

Literary Devices, Tone, and Poem Structure

I. Literary Devices: Literary devices are techniques that writers use to create special effects in their writing. They help convey meaning, create imagery, and make the text more engaging.

II. Common Literary Devices:

Metaphor: A comparison between two unlike things without using "like" or "as"

Example: "I am a continuous function" (from the poem)

Simile: A comparison between two unlike things using "like" or "as"

Example: "Her smile was as bright as the sun"

Personification: Giving human qualities to non-human things

Example: "The wind whispered through the trees"

Imagery: Language that appeals to the senses

Example: "Expanding with each self discovery" (creates visual imagery)

Repetition: Repeating words or phrases for emphasis

Example: "I am" appears multiple times in the poem

Alliteration: Repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words

Example: "Deconstructed and decolonized" (repetition of 'd' sound)

III. Poem Tone: Tone refers to the attitude or emotional feeling conveyed by the author through their words.

Common Tones in Poetry:

Defiant: Challenging authority or convention. Example: "I don't care if I am unrecognizable to you"

Reflective: Thoughtful consideration of ideas or experiences. Example: "Expanding with each self discovery"

Assertive: Confident and firm in expressing ideas. Example: "You cannot pin me down to a single point"

Melancholic: Sad or sorrowful. Example: "The leaves fell like tears from the autumn trees"

Joyful: Expressing happiness or celebration. Example: "My heart dances with the morning light"

Ironic: Expressing meaning opposite to the literal meaning. Example: "What a beautiful day" (during a thunderstorm)

IV. Poem Structure: Poem structure refers to how a poem is organized, including its form, line arrangement, and rhythmic patterns.

Common Poem Structures:

Free Verse: Poetry without regular patterns of rhyme or meter. Example: The gender identity poem we analyzed has no consistent rhyme scheme or meter

Sonnet: 14-line poem with specific rhyme schemes.

Shakespearean sonnet: ABABCDCDEFEFEGG

Petrarchan sonnet: ABBAABBACDECDE

Haiku: Traditional Japanese form with 3 lines (5-7-5 syllable pattern). Example:

Autumn moonlight—
a worm digs silently
into the chestnut.

Ballad: Narrative poem often with a repeated refrain. Usually tells a story with a consistent rhyme scheme

Concrete/Shape Poetry: Poem arranged to create a visual shape related to its content. Example: A poem about a tree shaped like a tree

Prose Poetry: Poetry written in paragraph form without line breaks. Focuses on imagery and language rather than structure