**Rhetorical Devices**

Below is a list of rhetorical devices that will be essential to your understanding of how to analyze fiction and nonfiction texts. Rhetorical analysis and the rhetorical analysis essay will be our area of focus for the first marking period (an it will loop throughout the year as we move into synthesis and argument essay studies).

* Keep this resource in your binder
* Add examples as you find them to help you remember the terms in use
* Quizzes will require memorization and identification of the terms in use so please start memorizing them early! The quiz schedule is as follows:
  + Week 2 of school: Term #s 12, 16, 18, 20, 26, 29, 30, and 31
  + Week 3 of school: Term #s 2, 3, 4, 8, 13, 17, 27, 28, and 33
  + Week 4 of school: Term #s 1, 5, 14, 15, 19, 21, 23, and 24
  + Week 5 of school: Term #s 6, 7 9, 10, 11, 22, 25, and 32

1. Allegory: Using character and/or story elements symbolically to represent an abstraction in addition to the literal meaning

Ex.

1. Alliteration: The repetition of sounds, especially initial consonants in two or more neighboring words

Ex.

1. Allusion: A direct or indirect reference to something that is commonly known

Ex.

1. Analogy: A similarity or comparison between two different things or the relationship between them

Ex.

1. Anecdote: A short narrative detailing particulars of an interesting episode or event

Ex.

1. Antithesis: Figure of balance in which two contrasting ideas are intentionally juxtaposed (a contrasting of opposing ideas)

Ex.

1. Apostrophe: Directly addressing something that is absent, imaginary, or personified (attempting to answer the unanswerable)

Ex.

1. Diatribe: A forceful and bitter verbal attack against someone or something

Ex.

1. Double Entendre: A word or phrase open to two interpretations, one of which is indecent

Ex.

1. Euphemism: A more agreeable or less offensive substitute for a generally unpleasant word or concept

Ex.

1. Extended Metaphor: A metaphor developed at great length, occurring frequently throughout the work

Ex.

1. Hyperbole: A deliberate exaggeration or overstatement, usually for comic effect

Ex.

1. Hypophora: One or more questions is asked and then answered (speaker raising and answering their own questions in order to spark connection with the reader)

Ex.

1. Idiom: a phrase or expression that contains a figurative meaning that is quite opposite of the literal meaning

Ex.

1. Imagery: Sensory details or figurative language used to describe, arouse emotion, or represent abstractions

Ex.

1. Irony: Contrast between what is explicitly stated and what is meant. Three types are verbal irony (words literally state the opposite of the true meaning), situational irony (events turn opposite of what is expected), and dramatic irony (facts/events are unknown to a character – only in fiction)

Ex.

1. Juxtaposition: Two words, phrases, images, or ideas are placed close together for comparison or contrast

Ex.

1. Litotes: A type of understatement where a point is established by negating (disproving) its opposite

Ex.

1. Metaphor: Implied comparison of seemingly unlike things or the substitution of one for the other, suggesting their similarity

Ex.

1. Metonym: The name of one object is substituted for that of another closely associated with it (similar to a well-known synonym)

Ex.

1. Onomatopoeia: Natural sounds are imitated in the sounds (and sometimes spelling) of words

Ex.

1. Oxymoron: The author groups apparently contradictory terms to suggest a paradox

Ex.

1. Paradox: A statement that appears contradictory but upon closer view it contains some degree of truth or validity

Ex.

1. Pathetic Fallacy: The personification of inanimate objects of nature

Ex.

1. Personification: The author presents or describes concepts, animals, or inanimate objects by endowing them with human attributes/emotions

Ex.

1. Repetition: The duplication of any element of language, such as sounds, words, phrases, clauses, sentences, or grammatical patterns

Ex.

1. Rhetorical Question: A question that is presented but not answered by the writer because its answer is obvious

Ex.

1. Simile: The comparison of two things, concepts, or ideas using “like” or “as”

Ex.

1. Symbolism: Something concrete that represents itself while also standing for something more abstract

Ex.

1. Synecdoche: A type of metaphor in which the part stands for the whole and the whole for the part

Ex.

1. Synesthesia: Presentation of characters/people, ideas, or places in a way that they appeal to more than one sense at a time (sometimes senses are mixed – such as smelling color or seeing sounds)

Ex.

1. Understatement: Ironic presentation of something as less significant than it is

Ex.