FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE EXAMPLES 1

Allusion Assonance Connotation Denotation Mood Symbolism Tone

1. Father: “We are going on a vacation.”  
   Son: “That’s great!!!”
2. "Try to light the fire"
3. “And on a day we meet to walk the line  
   And set the wall between us once again.  
   We keep the wall between us as we go.  
   To each the boulders that have fallen to each.”
4. “In the spring, I asked the daisies  
   If his words were true,  
   And the clever, clear-eyed daisies  
   Always knew.

Now the fields are brown and barren,  
Bitter autumn blows,  
And of all the stupid asters  
Not one knows.”

ANSWER KEY – EXAMPLES 1

Allusion Assonance Connotation Denotation Mood Symbolism Tone

1. Tone - Happy
2. Assonance
3. Denotation - In the above lines, the word “wall” is used to suggest a physical boundary which is its denotative meaning but it also implies the idea of “emotional barrier”.
4. Symbolism - In the above lines, “spring” and “daisies” are symbol of youth. “Brown and barren” are a symbol of [transition](https://literarydevices.net/transition/) from the youth to the old age. Moreover, “Bitter Autumn” symbolizes death

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE EXAMPLES 2**

1. *the lake, beneath the trees,*
2. “Hey! Guess who the new Newton of our school is?”
3. William Blake goes symbolic in his poem *Ah Sunflower*. He says:

“Ah Sunflower, weary of time,  
Who countest the steps of the sun;  
Seeking after that sweet golden clime  
Where the traveler’s journey is done;”

1. A short story “*The School”* by Donald Barthelme:

“And the trees all died. They were orange trees. I don’t know why they died, they just died. Something wrong with the soil possibly or maybe the stuff we got from the nursery wasn’t the best. We complained about it. So we’ve got thirty kids there, each kid had his or her own little tree to plant and we’ve got these thirty dead trees. All these kids looking at these little brown sticks, it was depressing.”

1. “The river, reflecting the clear blue of the sky, glistened and sparkled as it flowed noiselessly on.”
2. “She is all states, and all princes, I.”
3. I live in the state of Tennessee. In Tennessee there are many waterfalls, rivers, mountains, and valleys. Tennessee is a large state, but not the largest.

**ANSWER KEY – FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE 2**

1. Assonance - *Beside the lake, ben****ea****th the tr****ee****s*
2. ALLUSION – “Newton”, means a genius student, alludes to a famous scientist Isaac Newton.
3. SYMBOLISM - Blake uses a sunflower as a symbol for human beings and “the sun” symbolizes life. Therefore, these lines symbolically refer to their life cycle and their yearning for a never-ending life.
4. TONE - The use of adjectives “dead” and “depressing” sets a gloomy tone in the passage. As trees signify life here, their unexpected “death” from an unknown cause gives the above passage an unhappy and pessimistic tone.
5. MOOD – Charles Dickens creates a calm and peaceful mood in his novel “Pickwick Papers”:

“The river, reflecting the clear blue of the sky, glistened and sparkled as it flowed noiselessly on.”

The depiction of idyllic scenery imparts a serene and non-violent mood to the readers.

1. CONNOTATION - The word “Jew” has a negative connotation of wickedness, while “Christian” demonstrates positive connotations of kindness.
2. Denotation – The speaker is literally talking about the state of Tennessee, it is not a metaphorical meaning of the word state.

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE EXAMPLES 3**

1. Pink Floyd’s “Granchester Meadows”:

*In the sky a bird was heard to cry  
Misty morning whisperings and gentle stirring sounds  
Belie the deathly silence that lay all around*

1. “This place is like a Garden of Eden.”
2. Robert Frost - the last [stanza](https://literarydevices.net/stanza/) of his poem *The Road Not Taken*:

“I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.”

1. In The Hunger Games, Katniss covers Rue's body with flowers: "I want to do something, right here, right now, to shame them, to make them accountable, to show the Capitol that whatever they do or force us to do that there is a part of every tribute they can't own. That Rue was more than a piece in their Games. And so am I."
2. Read the following lines form Robert Frost’s poem “Out, Out”:

“As he swung toward them holding up the hand  
Half in appeal, but half as if to keep  
The life from spilling”

1. “There was no moon, and everything beneath lay in misty darkness: not a light gleamed from any house, far or near all had been extinguished long ago: and those at Wuthering Heights were never visible…”

“Gimmerton chapel bells were still ringing; and the full, mellow flow of the beck in the valley came soothingly on the ear. It was a sweet substitute for the yet absent murmur of the summer foliage, which drowned that music about the Grange when the trees were in leaf.”

1. Pick up the basketball and throw it to me.

**ANSWER KEY - FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE EXAMPLES 3**

1. assonance:

*In the sky a b****i****rd was h****ea****rd to cry  
M****i****sty morning wh****i****sperings and gentle st****i****rring sounds  
Bel****i****e the deathly s****i****lence that lay all around*

Bird and heard; misty, whisperings, and stirring; belie and silence! There are many instances of assonance to be found in this song. Theses allow a mysterious, poetic, and beautiful sound.

1. Allusion - This is a biblical allusion to the “garden of God” in the Book of Genesis.
2. TONE - Frost tells us about his past with a “sigh”, this gives the above lines an unhappy tone. This tone leads us into thinking that the [speaker](https://literarydevices.net/speaker/) in the poem had to make a difficult choice.
3. SYMBOLISM - (The flowers are a symbol of her humanity; a tribute to her as a person.)
4. CONNOTATION - In the line “The life from spilling” the word “life” connotes “blood”. It does make sense as well because loss of blood may cause loss of life.
5. MOOD - Emily Bronte in “Wuthering Heights” creates two contrasting moods through two contrasting settings. The events of the narrative takes place in two neighboring houses: Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange. A depressing mood is created whenever Wuthering Heights is described. For example, in chapter 12 the narrator says:

“There was no moon, and everything beneath lay in misty darkness: not a light gleamed from any house, far or near all had been extinguished long ago: and those at Wuthering Heights were never visible…”

On the contrary, the description of Thrushcross Grange creates a calm and peaceful mood:

“Gimmerton chapel bells were still ringing; and the full, mellow flow of the beck in the valley came soothingly on the ear. It was a sweet substitute for the yet absent murmur of the summer foliage, which drowned that music about the Grange when the trees were in leaf.”

The [contrast](https://literarydevices.net/contrast/) presented in the settings also helps in the development of the different characters i.e. the people from Wuthering Heights are unsophisticated while those from Thrushcross Grange are refined.

1. The basketball is literally talking about a basketball, it is not a figurative meaning such as some other thing that should be picked up and given to the speaker.

* EXAMPLES OF ALLUSION
* “Don’t act like a Romeo in front of her.” – “Romeo” is a reference to Shakespeare’s Romeo, a passionate lover of Juliet, in “Romeo and Juliet”.
* The rise in poverty will unlock the Pandora’s box of crimes. – This is an allusion to one of Greek Mythology’s origin myth, “Pandora’s box”.
* “Stop acting like my ex-husband please.” – Apart from scholarly allusions we refer to common people and places in our speech.

Below is a list of some common deviations from denotative meanings of words that we experience in our day to day life:

* A dog is used to suggest shamelessness or an ugly face.
* A dove is used to suggest peace or gentility.
* Home is used to suggest family, comfort and security.
* Politician has a negative [connotation](https://literarydevices.net/connotation/) of wicked and insincere person
* Pushy refers to someone loud-mouthed and irritating.
* Mom and Dad when used instead of mother and father suggest loving parents.

1. Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day - Sonnet 18 - by William Shakespeare

Positive Connotations

* Childlike
* Dove (peace)
* Hollywood (fame)
* Home
* Lean
* Modest
* Slender
* Thrifty
* Wall Street (wealth)
* Youthful

Negative Connotations

* Babe (woman)
* Chick (woman)
* Broad (woman)
* Chatty
* Chicken (coward)
* Lackadaisical
* Miserly
* Mutt
* Procrastination
* Pushy
* Reservation (Native Americans)
* Retarded
* Skinny
* Uppity