

CREATING LITERARY ELEMENTS IN MY OWN WRITING

FORESHADOWING	Foreshadowing is a suggestion or hint in a story.	<i>As soon as the doctor said, "It was up to you," I knew what would happen.</i>
IMAGERY	This term refers to word pictures—groups of words that create specific pictures in the mind. Imagery refers to all the senses—sight, sound, taste, smell, and touch.	<i>The hospital was a huge brick building with large glass windows. The ceiling was at least two stories high. I licked my lips with nervousness as we entered the glass elevator. I held my husband's warm hand as we listened to the soothing piano music over the intercom.</i>
IRONY	When something unexpected happens.	<i>I thought it was ironic that the woman across the hallway beat me by cheating in my mental delivery race. In my mind I disqualified her.</i>
PERSONIFICATION	This is a metaphor where human characteristics are given to inanimate objects.	<i>The blanket was warm and it hugged my body with comfort.</i>
SUSPENSE	This method keeps the reader on the edge of their seats. You hold details back so they're wondering what happens next.	<i>It was 8:30 and the doctor asked if I could relax while she went across the hallway. I was exhausted. It had been 4 hours!</i>
SYMBOLISM	A symbol is a word or object that stands for another word or object.	<i>The bracelet around my wrist would forever remain in Jenna's baby book - after all, it was a symbol of my experience.</i>
METAPHOR	To compare 2 things, without using like or as	<i>My legs were concrete bricks fixed to the bed—I couldn't move.</i>
SIMILE	To compare 2 things using like or as	<i>The woman next door was screeching like a dying animal!</i>
ONOMATOPOEIA	A literary device wherein the sound of a word echoes the sound it represents. The words "splash," "knock," and "roar" are examples.	<i>As we strolled down the hallway we listened to the thud, thud of the IV stand's wheels.</i>
FLASHBACK	A flashback jumps back in time to explain something to us that we needed to understand. Good flashbacks are little stories embedded within the narrative.	<i>As I look at Jenna now I think back to the most important day of my life...August 16th, 2005.</i>