



Objectives: ...draw on experiences to bring meanings to words in context such as interpreting figurative language and multiple-meaning words
...use literary devices effectively such as suspense, dialogue, and figurative language



Literary Devices

Good writers are masters of crafting language. Their words create pictures in the minds of their readers. They use their imaginations as paintbrushes and many literary devices as their paints. Here are a few of these literary devices that are either in the story or that might have been used in one of the stories of ***The SOS File***. To make them easy to remember, just remember **MA'S CAVE SOAP**. Each letter in the phrase stands for a literary device.

MA'S CAVE SOAP

Literary Devices with Examples

Metaphor— *The go cart was a lightning bolt streaking toward the park.*

Adjectives— *a screeching stop, a disgruntled scowl on her face*

Similes— *The go cart was like a lightning bolt streaking toward the park. (uses like or as)*

Conversation Plus— *"Oh, no! It's a bear!" I whispered and slowly moved my eyes from side to side looking for a tree. (We can see and hear the speaker as she talks.)*

Adverbs— *Hopefully, I approached Mom to ask her for \$40.*

Vivid verbs— *I gobbled another Chunkanut bar.*

Emotion— *A knot of fear began to tighten around my stomach.*

Senses— *A salty, buttery aroma drifted from the dilapidated concession stand by the ball field. My nervous stomach growled as I heard the popping corn and watched my dad take out a dollar for a bag. One crunch of the delicious snack told me that everything might be okay after all. (smell, feeling, sight, sound, taste)*

Onomatopoeia— *Glub, glub! (sound words) I gasped for a breath as I reached the surface of the water.*

Alliteration— *...Mrs. Meany's menacing moves... (a series of words that start alike)*

Personification— *River grass wrapped its fingers around my ankles and began to pull me down. (Something that is not alive or is not a complete human does things a person might do.)*

Taking Notes on the Master's Work

As a writing apprentice, you can learn from master writers whose work you admire. In your reading journal, keep lists of your favorite words, phrases, and literary devices from ***The SOS Files***. Put the page number in parentheses. If you aren't sure how to classify the ones you like, write them and, later, discuss them with your reading group. Share your favorites and listen for new favorites that are shared in your discussions.

On the next page, fill in the chart from "A Bear Tale," to analyze the MA'S CAVE SOAP in it.