

BASIC TROPES

Ornaments can help a piece of writing to seem much more persuasive and/or aesthetically pleasing.

A particular type of ornament, which deals specifically with meaning and significance, is called a trope. Several different types of tropes exist (you may recognize a few):

METAPHOR

The deliberate pairing of two unlike things

EX: My girlfriend is a rose.

ALLEGORY/EXTENDED METAPHOR

The continuous use of a metaphor for longer than a few lines

EX: My girlfriend is a rose. She is sweet. She has thorns. She is life.

SIMILE

Another variety of metaphor containing the words LIKE or AS for the comparison

EX: Life is like a box of chocolates... You never know what you are going to get?

PERSONIFICATION

Is an expression which provides inorganic objects organic properties (and vice versa)

EX: Make your car happy. Buy Frankfort Oil's Premium Additives, and leave your car with a smile on its face.

EX: The computer sang a sour tune when it detected a virus.

RHETORICAL QUESTION

A question without an answer, which is used to solicit a profound sense of thought rather than a response (Unanswerable question)

EX: What is the purpose of life?

EX: Will they ever find a cure for this disease?

ONOMATOPOEIA

Is an expression which contains a sensory element emulating the word, typically sound (Imitates the sound)

EX: The electric guitar sounded as it clashed and clattered against Eddie's amplifier.

EX: The bee buzzed by my ear.

METONYMY

Is a reference to something by naming something simply associated with it, even naming one of its attributes or qualities (Think conceptual)

EX: The pen is mightier than the sword. [pen=someone intellectualizing, sword=someone fighting]

HYPERBOLE

Is an expression which shows an exaggeration

EX: The poodle ate my arm off...

EX: Luke, our quarterback, looks like he could lift a truck over his head...