

# Poetic Decorations ( Use Sparingly! 😊 )

## 1 - Simile or Metaphor

**Simile:** A simile compares one thing to something else using “like” or “as.”

*Simile Examples*

- Her dress was white as a fresh snow.
- Like a mouse, she squealed with surprise.
- “Idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean” –Samuel Coleridge
- Nigel looked like a Greek god.
- The case was light as a feather.

**Metaphor:** A metaphor makes an implied comparison by saying one thing IS another without using “like” or “as.” A metaphor says something IS something else.

*Metaphor Examples*

- The world is his stage.
- Debt is a bottomless sea.
- Love is a lemon; it is either bitter or sweet.
- The wicked man had a heart of stone.
- Nigel is a Greek god.
- I am the vine; you are the branches.
- These students are Einsteins in the making.

## 2 - Alliteration

The repetition of an initial consonant sound

*Examples*

- The young woman took a stroll along the beach, *sincerely seeking satisfying solitude*.
- Bartholomew’s beagle barked and bayed, becoming bothersome for Billy.
- Conrad’s cat clawed her couch, creating chaos.
- Seymour’s seven sisters slept soundly in sand.
- Toby took tons of tools to make toys for tots.
- Marvin’s microphone made much music.
- Nigel’s nephew needed new notebooks now not never.

*Literary Examples*

- ...And the silken sad uncertain rustling of each purple curtain (from *The Raven* by Edgar Allan Poe)
- ...Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing, Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before (from *The Raven* by Edgar Allan Poe)
- Hot-hearted Beowulf was bent upon battle (from *Beowulf*)
- Behemoth, biggest born of earth, upheaved His vastness (from *Paradise Lost* by John Milton)
- Fly o'er waste fens and windy fields (from *Sir Galahad* by Alfred Tennyson)
- Mary sat musing on the lamp-flame at the table (from *The Death of the Hired Man* by Robert Frost)
- For the sky and the sea, and the sea and the sky (from the *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge)

### 3 - Personification

A figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is endowed with human qualities or abilities.

*Examples*

- The wind whispered to them as they ran through the woods.
- The trees of the fields will clap their hands.
- "We're tired of this weather," said the daisy.
- The wind itself seemed to be angry at the enormous tree's stubborn resistance.
- My shoes are killing me!
- The flowers turned their faces to the sun.
- The couch groaned under his weight.
- My car refused to budge.
- The dry earth greedily drank the water.
- The fog crept stealthily down the street.
- The mountains guarded the valley.

### 4 - Assonance and Consonance

**Assonance:** repetition of vowel sounds used in sequence or in close proximity to each other

*Examples*

- My words like silent raindrops fell....
- towering mountains
- waves clapping and crashing
- Ken's extraordinary collection was electrifying.

**Consonance:** repetition of consonant sounds used in sequence or in close proximity.  
(Consonance is similar to Alliteration, but it's not limited to the first letter of the words.)

*Examples*

- black rocks speckled with snow
- ...and high school girls with clear skinned smiles...
- sun hidden by evergreens and pines

### 5 - Apostrophe

A poetic device in which the poet talk to an absent person, place, or thing as if it were present.

*Examples*

- Captain! O Captain! Our fearful trip is done... (*Walt Whitman writing to Abraham Lincoln after his death*)
- Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you are.
- Is this a dagger which I see before me, The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee! I have thee not, and yet I see thee still. (*from Macbeth by Shakespeare*)
- Then come, sweet death, and rid me of this grief. (*Christopher Malowe*)

### 6 - Onomatopoeia

Use of a word whose sound suggests the meaning

*Examples*

- Clang            o Bang            o Twang            o Zing            o Zip            o Pow            o Boom