**Literary Devices and Figures of Speech**

1. **Simile:** A simile is a comparison between two different things by using “like” or “as”.

**Example:** Found in Poem “I wandered Lonely as a Cloud”

1. **Metaphor:** This refers to a comparison between two things or items without the use of “like” or “as”.

**Example:** Found in the 2nd and 3rd line of the 6th stanza of the poem “The Place we call Home”.

1. **Imagery:** It helps create an image or picture on a reader’s mind. It is based on the five (5) senses: Skin – feel/touch, nose – smell, eye – vision or sight, ear – hearing, tongue - taste

among the five, the mostly used is the eye – vision or sight

**example:** the poem “I wandered Lonely as a Cloud” displays an aspect of self-imagery in the reader’s mind. The first stanza of the poem mentioned above shows an imagery.

1. **Hyperbole:** This figure of speech includes the use of over-exaggeration of items with the purpose of creating emphasis.

**Example:** Found in the line

1. **Allusion:** Is a direct or indirect reference to a familiar figure, place or event

*Historical Allusion (e.g. Found in stanza 4 of the poem “The place we call home”), Mythical allusion.*

1. **Apostrophe:** This is a figure of speech in which the speaker addresses an object or concept that is absent or unable to report.

1. **Assonance:** Is the repetition of vowel sounds or diphthongs in a sentence. Assonance is qualified to be named so if the words are close enough for the repetition of sounds.
2. **Tone:** Is the poet attitude towards a subject or an object. Tone is generally conveyed through the choice of words. (Example: Sarcastic).
3. **Mood:** It refers to the way an audience or reader is feeling at a particular time.
4. **Theme:** It is the central idea of a story. What comes in mind after reading a story, the general concept of a story.

* Theme of Equality
* Reality of death
* Futility in taking pride.

1. **Paradox:** Is an absurd or contradictory statement or proposition which when investigated may prove to be true.

* Death, thou shall die

1. **Synecdoche:** In synecdoche, the part which is used to represent the whole is actually a part of the whole.

* Scepter and Crown - where these represent Glory and Power
* Scythe and Spade – where these represents the poor working class.

1. **Euphemism:** This is a polite or mild word or expression used to refer to something embarrassing and unpleasant.

* *Passed away* instead of *die*
* *Pregnancy termination* instead of *abortion*
* *On the street* instead of *homeless*
* *Physically challenged* instead of *disabled*

1. **Symbolism:** This is the use of symbols to represent and signify ideas. This helps create deeper meaning and add emotion to a poem or story. All metaphorical words are symbolic.

* Scythe and Spade are symbolic to the poor working class
* Scepter and Crown is symbolic to Glory and Power

1. **Oxymoron:** This means two words placed close together which are contradictory yet have truth in them. Sometimes these words are separated by a word or two.
2. **Irony:** Irony is a figure of speech in which words are used in such a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning. Irony is synonymous to Sarcasm.

* The pastor murdered the robber.
* A marriage counsellor filed a divorce

1. **Satire:** The use of humor, irony, exaggeration or ridicule to expose and criticize people’s stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues.
2. **Diction:** This refers to the writer’s choice of words and style of expressions that the author makes and uses in the work of literature.

Note: The diction can have a great effect on the tone of a piece of literature.

1. **Personification:** This means giving human attributes to animals, objects and ideas.