

Year 7 Literary Devices Cheat Sheet

1. Key Literary Devices

Metaphor: A direct comparison without using "like" or "as."

Examples:

"The classroom was a zoo." (Implies chaos, not literally animals.)

"Her heart is ice." (She's unemotional.)

Simile: A comparison using "like" or "as."

Examples:

"He runs like a cheetah." (Fast runner.)

"As brave as a lion." (Very courageous.)

Personification: Giving human traits to nonhuman things.

Examples:

"The wind whispered through the trees." (Wind can't literally whisper.)

"The sun smiled down on us." (Sun can't smile.)

2. Other Useful Devices

Device	Definition	Example
Alliteration	Repetition of the same starting sound	'Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers'
Onomatopoeia	Words which imitate sounds	'Boom! The thunder crashed'
Hyperbole	Extreme exaggeration	'I've told you a million times!'
Oxymoron	Two opposite words together	'Deafening silence'

3. Why Use Literary Devices?

Makes writing more interesting (no one wants boring descriptions!).

Helps readers imagine scenes (e.g., "The fog crept like a silent thief" vs. "There was fog.").

Adds emotion (e.g., "Time flew" feels happier than "Time passed.").

4. Spot the Device (Answers Below)

1. "The stars danced in the sky."
2. "Her smile was as bright as the sun."
3. "The world is a stage."

Answers:

1. Personification (stars can't dance).
2. Simile (uses "as bright as").
3. Metaphor (direct comparison).

5. Tips for Using Devices

- ✓ **Don't overdo it** - one strong metaphor is better than three forced ones.
- ✓ **Keep it clear** - avoid confusing comparisons (e.g., "His temper was a squashed tomato" → huh?).
- ✓ **Read aloud** - does it sound natural?