



IB SUCCESSFUL

Fostering Education, Nurturing Development

Technique	Definition	Example
Symbolism	An object which represents a larger concept or idea.	The large cross sat heavily on the wall, as I noticed a deep red tinge to its outline.
Allegory	A metaphor which has a broader application on life.	The story of Adam and Eve is allegorical for the concept of giving in to temptation.
Alliteration	Repetition of consonants at the beginning of words.	The boys bake brownies and bring them to school.
Allusion	Indirect reference to an idea, figure, writer, text etc.	Shakespeare pioneered the theme of love in his writing. <i>This alludes to Romeo and Juliet, written by Shakespeare.</i>
Ambiguity	When more than one meaning is evoked by the text.	The loud thunder rumbled across the dreary sky as clouds drifted through.
Analogy	A comparison between two unlike things in order to create meaning.	Life is like a box of chocolates
Assonance	Repetition of vowels at the beginning of words.	Adam ate awesome apples.
Connotation	The emotional association attached to a word, idea or symbol.	Her red dress caught my attention, as my heartbeat hastened.
Dramatic irony	The audience/reader knows more than the persona.	In Act 2 of Romeo and Juliet, Benvolio and Mercutio do not initially know what we as audience members do: that

		Romeo has fallen in love with Juliet.
Euphemism	An understatement which is intended to be delivered in order to avoid emotion.	Saying 'he has passed away' instead of 'he is dead'.
Foreshadowing	A preview into what will happen later in the text.	The final graveyard flower is blooming, and its smell drifts through their house, speaking gently the names of their dead. (Foreshadows death)
Hyperbole	An over-exaggerated phrase or sentence.	It was the most amazing day of my life.
Intertextuality	A reference to another text.	Similar to those Romeos and those Macbeths.
Metonymy	A thing or concept is referred to by the name of something closely associated with it.	"The pen is mightier than the sword." (<i>Pen</i> refers to written words, and <i>sword</i> to military force.)
Synecdoche	A term which is the part of something is used to refer to the whole of that thing.	All hands on deck. <i>Hands refer to people.</i>
Motif	Recurring concept or symbol within a text.	In Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> , we find a recurring motif of incest, accompanied by incestuous desires of some characters. Laertes speaks to his sister Ophelia in a way that is sexually explicit. Hamlet's obsession with Gertrude's sexual life with Claudius has an underlying tone of incestuous desire.
Oxymoron	The opposition of two contrasting words.	It was a bittersweet moment.
Paradox	Two opposing ideas which are entirely different and seemingly does not make sense, however, creates meaning and logic when thought about.	Your enemy's friend is your enemy.
Personification	When an inanimate object is given living qualities.	The tree waved at me from a distance.

Syntax	The structure of words in a sentence.	The sky is pink, especially in the romantic city of Paris.
Diction	The choice of words used.	<p>“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”</p> <p><i>The diction of ‘It was’ enhances the intensity of the passage.</i></p>
Metaphor	A simile without the like or as.	The children were flowers grown in concrete gardens.
Synesthesia	A combination of the senses.	She spoke in honeyed tones that were almost velvet-like.
Pathetic Fallacy	When the environment represents the emotion or mood of characters within a text.	<p>From King Lear</p> <p>KING LEAR: Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks! Rage, blow! You cataracts and hurricanes, spout Till you have drenched our steeples, drowned the cocks! You sulphurous and thought-executing fires,</p>