

- Traditional / universal: items whose symbolic value has been used or seen in previous literature (i.e. flags symbolizing patriotism or allegiance to a group)
- Original / unique: items whose symbolic value either has never been seen before or has never been used in this way (i.e. a family heirloom)
- Simile: comparisons between unlike things using “like” or “as” (i.e. “She ran as fast as lightning”)
- Metaphor: comparisons between unlike things without using “like” or “as” (i.e. “My life is one long roller coaster ride”)
- Conceit: when a simple metaphor extends throughout an entire work of literature
- Metonymy: representing a thing by referring to something associated with it (i.e. “the crown of England”; “another meeting with the suits”)
- Analogy: drawing a comparison between things to make one of them clearer and more recognizable
- Allusion: making reference to something from history as a means of establishing familiarity (i.e. literary, Biblical, religious, historical, biographical)
- Allegory: a story which, in its entirety, has metaphoric value
- Parable: a shorter story or tale which is allegorical and contains a moral or message (see Plato’s “Parable of the Cave”)
- Fable: a short allegorical story utilizing animals as characters (see Aesop’s Fables)
- Fairy tale: an allegorical story containing fantastic events and unrealistic settings (see Grimm’s Fairy Tales)
- Archetype: a character which is modeled after an established literary form