**Literary Devices**

**1. Personification**: giving human qualities to inanimate objects.

Example: The wave swallowed the little boat. The light danced on the surface of the water. The sun smiled down on us. The leaves danced in the gentle breeze. The wind whispered through the trees.

**2.** **Symbolism:** is the use of an object, a word, or an event/action to signify an important idea; it gives a meaning that is different from its literal sense, and is much deeper and more significant**.**

Eg: a tree can be a symbol of hope, life, strength. In the book, City of Ember, a bean seed and a caterpillar are a symbol of new life and change.

A black crow can be a symbol of loss, mourning. A dove can be a symbol of peace or freedom.

**3. Metaphor**: it's a figure of speech that is used to make a comparison between two things that aren't alike but do have something in common.

Examples: The road was a silvery grey ribbon that meandered through

the forest.

Laughter is the best medicine. The class was a zoo.

The curtain of night fell upon us.

The sun was a copper penny in the blue azure sky.

**4. Simile**: also a comparison; a comparison of 2 different things using the words “like” or “as.”

Examples: The wind roared like a freight train. The fog was thick as pea soup. To this storm, he was insignificant as a leaf.

**5. Imagery:** visually descriptive or figurative language that appeals to the senses. (Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation)

Some examples:

For example: Will Jenkins described the river as…

“…the heart of the angry blackness was alive, just inches below, ready to snatch away anything or anyone foolish enough to come close.”

**6**. **Figurative language:** departing from a literal use of words; words used in a non-literal sense; metaphorical.

>similes, metaphors, imagery, personification, idioms, symbolism, hyperbole are all examples of figurative language.

7. **Hyperbole**: an exaggeration or overstatement intended to produce an effect without being taken literally.

Example: I’ve told you *a million times*, not to exaggerate.

I'm so hungry, I could eat a horse.

“And I *for five centuries* right gladly would be.” (From “A Character,”

William Wordsworth)