

Spelling list: Figurative language terminology

English GCSE

alliteration	Alliteration involves words that begin with the same sound.
allusion	Allusion is an indirect reference to another time person or place, e.g. His love of chocolate was his Achilles' heel.
assonance	Assonance involves words that have the same vowel sound.
metaphor	Metaphor is an implied comparison of two unlike things, e.g. He was a lion in battle.
simile	Simile involves describing something by comparing it with something else.
onomatopoeia	Onomatopoeia is when the sound of a word is the same as its meaning.
personification	Personification describes something non-human as if it is human.
foreshadowing	Foreshadowing is to hint at what might happen later in the play.
aside	The actor said an aside to the audience that the other characters wouldn't hear.
anachronism	The town is a throwback to medieval times, an anachronism that has survived the passing years.
irony	Irony is the use of words where the real meaning is the opposite of what is actually said.
pun	A pun involves the clever use of words that has two meanings.
soliloquy	Shakespeare uses Macbeth's soliloquy to show that he is unsure about what to do.
symbol	An object can be a symbol , if it also stands for something larger than itself, a clock might mean time passing. A writer's style is their characteristic way of writing e.g. choice of words,

style	structure and imagery.
tone	Tone is the feel of the text, indicated by choice of words, rhythm of sentence and such like.
protagonist	The protagonist is the main character in the play.
antagonist	Antagonist is the person or force within a story that opposes the protagonist or hero.