Figures of Speech (Figurative Language): Examples

**Simile:**
The simile creates a direct relationship between two objects which normally are not alike or similar. The words "like" or "as" are always used. The qualities of one object are transferred to another.

1. "He leapt like a tiger into the fight."
2. "My love is like a red, red rose."
3. "Love is like a red, red rose."
4. "The wind's like a whetted knife."
5. "Her presence was like a ray of sunshine in a darkened room."

**Metaphor:**
The metaphor creates an indirect relationship between two objects not normally thought of as having similar characteristics. "Like" or "as" is not used.

1. "There is a garden in her face."
2. "Antony is but a limb of Caesar."
3. "An aged man is but a paltry thing,
   A tattered coat upon a stick ..."

**Personification:**
Personification occurs when human or animate qualities are given to inanimate objects or ideas.

1. "The house shook, the wind howled."
2. "The laughing faces of happy flowers."
3. "And there tiptoe
   The stars among the branches go."
4. "She (an old freighter) nods at her mooring cables,
   Head bent to the dry monsoon."

**Onomatopoeia**
Onomatopoeia is the term writers use for those words that sound like what they mean. No one would make a mistake in identifying which animal is represented by "oink", or what message is represented by "Boom!".

1. His piercing shriek could be heard from across the field.
2. The whisper of tree branches was the calm before the storm.
3. The splatter of paint on the newly paved driveway alarmed him.

**Alliteration**
A writer or poet might choose to place words in sentences or words in lines of poetry which all have the same beginning letter. Alliteration is the repetition of a letter's sound for effect.

1. Harassing hairy hyenas
2. The snake slithered silently through the grass
3. Jovial and jolly, he joked about the last time he was there

**Irony**
Irony is the use of words to express the opposite of what one really means. What you expected to happen, and how things turned out eventually, were opposite. In simple words, it is a difference between the appearance and the reality. In real life, irony may be comical, bitter or sometimes unbearably offensive.

1. Water, water, everywhere,
   And all the boards did shrink;
   Water, water, everywhere,
   Nor any drop to drink

2. A boy named Sue