

Simile

A simile uses like or as to make a comparison. Authors use similes to make their writing more descriptive or vivid.

Instead of writing

**Meg and I are
best friends.**

The author could use the simile

Meg and I are like two peas in a pod.

Two peas in a pod are close together.
The author and Meg are close friends.
The simile helps the reader understand their friendship.

Instead of writing...	Use this simile
I was so happy to pass my test.	Passing my test was like winning the lottery.
Max ran fast.	Max was as fast as a flash of lightning.
My teacher is sweet.	My teacher is as sweet as pie.

Metaphor

A metaphor compares two things without using like or as. Strong metaphors will suggest that two different things are similar.

Instead of writing

My room is a mess.

The author could use the metaphor

My room is a pigsty.

The author has a messy room and a pigsty is a messy place. The author doesn't really live in an actual pigsty, but the comparison helps the reader understand how messy the room is.

Instead of writing...	Use this metaphor
My classmates can be crazy sometimes.	My classmates are a bunch of wild animals.
Sally is a sweet girl.	Sally is a little angel.
You're in trouble.	You're toast!

Idiom

An idiom is a common expression that can't be taken literally, but the meaning is understood.

Instead of writing

Good Luck!

The author could use the idiom

Break a leg!

The author doesn't really want their friend to break a leg, but it is a common expression that people use to tell people good luck.

Instead of writing...	Use this idiom
It is raining really hard.	It's raining cats and dogs.
I'm listening to you.	I'm all ears.
I'm really happy.	I'm on cloud nine.
I'm really mad.	My blood is boiling.
I'm going to bed.	I'm going to hit the hay.

Hyperbole

A Hyperbole is an exaggeration.

Instead of writing

**I'm impatient
for my birthday.**

The author could use the hyperbole

My birthday will never get here!

The author knows that eventually his birthday will get there, but the hyperbole helps the reader feel the impatience.

Instead of writing...	Use this hyperbole
I'm so hungry.	I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.
They have a lot of money.	They have a ton of money.
I really want to go to the movie.	If I don't go to the movie I will die.
Grandma is old.	Grandma is older than dirt.
My feet hurt.	My feet are killing me.

Personification

Personification is when the author gives a non-human thing human characteristics.

Instead of writing

**The leaves
were blowing.**

The author could use the personification

**The leaves were dancing in the
wind.**

The leaves weren't really dancing in the wind, but the way they are blowing is similar to how a person dances.

Instead of writing...	Use this personification
My iPad is broken.	My iPad throws a tantrum every time I use it.
The pot was overflowing with popcorn.	The popcorn was jumping out of the bowl.
The thunder was so loud.	The thunder clapped angrily.
I'm excited for summer vacation.	I can hear summer vacation calling my name.

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia are sound words that make the actual sound when you read them.

Sizzle

Splat

Zip

Crackle

Crunch

Bang

Zing

Ding

Whoosh

Achoo

Glug

Fizz

Slurp

Adding onomatopoeia to a story makes it fun to read.

Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of the beginning sound in two or more nearby words. Authors add alliteration to entertain their readers and draw attention to a phrase or sentence.

Silly Susie sings songs while she strolls to the store.

Betty baked brownies for her best friend Billy.

Mrs. Miller makes melodies during music.

The rain roared right outside my window.

The generous gentlemen just paid my entire bill.

Adding alliteration is like adding a little tongue twister to your writing.