

'white', 'lion' and 'rose' commonly symbolize or represent 'innocence', 'courage', and 'beauty' respectively. Such symbols exist by convention and tradition. A 'serpent' may stand for evil or wisdom according to different conventions.

g*Verbal Irony: is a situation in which one meaning is stated, but another (opposite/opposed) is actually intended. This subtle irony depends for its effect on the author's choice of words.

Ex: Mr. Kandell is a rich man. He is generous and kind to his poor neighbours (but we mean just the opposite).

h*Overstatement (hyperbole): an exaggeration; giving something more or less a quality than it really has.

Ex: There were millions of people at the café.

The statement is not intended to be taken literally. It is used as a means to express exaggeration= the café was very crowded.

i*Understatement (litotes): the opposite of exaggeration. It is saying something with an overtly light tone; the speaker's words convey less emotion than he actually feels.

Ex 1: "I'm really glad that you came to visit," said the spider to the fly. The spider is not simply pleased to have a visitor, but is excited to have his next meal trapped in his web.

Ex 2: "It is sometimes a bit cold in the North pole."

This is an understatement. In fact, it is a freezing area on our planet.

j*Paradox: a statement that appears to be absurd, untrue or contradictory, but may actually be true. A paradox occurs when two things that should not be able to exist at the same time are said, in a poem, to exist at the same time. For example, it is impossible that both night and day, both spring and autumn, past and present occur at the same time. If, however, one would assume that night and day coexist in a poem, one would be expressing a paradox.

Ex: "More haste, less speed" is a paradox.

Ex: Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength.

If you want peace, prepare for war.

k*Oxymoron: a compact form of paradox where two contradictory terms are combined in one phrase. (Two words together that are opposites but together mean something).

Ex: "cold fire", "honest thief", "invisible ink".

"old news", "original copy", "peace force".