



# **The Grammar Dog Guide to Poetic Devices in Dickens**

**All quizzes use sentences from six novels.  
Includes 150 multiple choice questions.**

## About Gramwardog

Gramwardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Gramwardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Gramwardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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*SAMPLE EXERCISES - POETIC DEVICES* in Charles Dickens

*A TALE OF TWO CITIES*

EXERCISE 2      STYLE: POETIC DEVICES

Identify the poetic devices in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*a. assonance      b. consonance      c. alliteration      d. repetition      e. rhyme*

- \_\_\_\_ 1.      The coachman looked back and the guard looked back, and even the emphatic leader pricked up his ears and looked back, without contradicting.
  
- \_\_\_\_ 2.      . . . at night, when the lamplighter had let these down, and lighted, and hoisted them again, a feeble grove of dim wicks swung in a sickly manner overhead, as if they were at sea.
  
- \_\_\_\_ 3.      Madame Defarge knitted with nimble fingers and steady eyebrows, and saw nothing.
  
- \_\_\_\_ 4.      In the gloomy tile-paved entry to the gloomy tile-paved staircase, Monsieur Defarge bent down on one knee to the child of his old master, and put her hand to his lips.

*GREAT EXPECTATIONS*

EXERCISE 4      STYLE: POETIC DEVICES

Identify the poetic devices in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*a. assonance      b. consonance      c. alliteration      d. repetition      e. rhyme*

- \_\_\_\_ 1.      The marshes were just a long black horizontal line then, as I stopped to look after him; and the river was just another horizontal line, not nearly so broad nor yet so black; and the sky was just a row of long angry red lines and dense black lines intermixed.
  
- \_\_\_\_ 2.      . . . and knowing her to have a hard and heavy hand, and to be much in the habit of laying it upon her husband as well as upon me, I supposed that Joe Gargery and I were both brought up by hand.
  
- \_\_\_\_ 3.      Joe looked at her in a helpless way, then took a helpless bite, and looked at me again.
  
- \_\_\_\_ 4.      “Matthew will come and see me at last,” said Miss Havisham sternly, “when I am laid on that table.”

**OLIVER TWIST**

**EXERCISE 6      STYLE: POETIC DEVICES**

**Identify the poetic devices in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:**

*a. assonance      b. consonance      c. alliteration      d. repetition      e. rhyme*

- \_\_\_ 1.      With this, the undertaker's wife opened a side door, and pushed Oliver down a steep flight of stairs into a stone cell, damp and dark.
  
- \_\_\_ 2.      "It's not Madness, ma'am," replied Mr. Bumble, after a few moments of deep meditation. "It's Meat."
  
- \_\_\_ 3.      But the light only served to show the boy his own lonesomeness and desolation, as he sat, with bleeding feet and covered with dust, upon a door-step.
  
- \_\_\_ 4.      And here they encountered a stout man with a bunch of whiskers on his face, and a bunch of keys in his hand.

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