



The Grammar Dog Guide to Poetic Devices in Shakespeare's Plays

**All quizzes use sentences from twenty plays.
Includes 400 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 Shakespeare’s Plays

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

EXERCISE 2 STYLE: POETIC DEVICES

Identify the allusions and symbols in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. history b. mythology c. religion d. fate/chance e. folklore/superstition

ACT I

- ___ 1. Out, fool! I forgive thee for a witch.
- ___ 2. Therefore, dear Isis, keep decorum and fortune him accordingly.
- ___ 3. Look, prithee, Charmian, how this Herculean Roman does become the carriage of his chafe.
- ___ 4. Yet have I fierce affections, and think what Venus did with Mars.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: POETIC DEVICES

Identify the type of allusion in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. history b. mythology c. religion d. literature

ACT I

- ___ 1. Her name is Portia, nothing undervalued to Cato’s daughter, Brutus’ Portia.
- ___ 2. Many Jasons came in quest of her.
- ___ 3. If I live to be as old as Sibylla, I will die as chaste as Diana unless I be obtained by the manner of my father’s will.
- ___ 4. When Jacob grazed his uncle Laban’s sheep – this Jacob from our holy Abram was, as his wise mother wrought in his behalf, the third possessor.

SAMPLE EXERCISES – POETIC DEVICES in Shakespeare’s Plays

THE TRAGEDY OF RICHARD III

EXERCISE 16 STYLE: POETIC DEVICES

Identify the allusions and symbols in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. history b. mythology c. religion d. animal imagery e. folklore/superstition

ACT I

- ___ 1. More pity that the eagles should be mewed, whiles kites and buzzards prey at liberty.
- ___ 2. What black magician conjures up this fiend to stop devoted charitable deeds?
- ___ 3. Why strew’st thou sugar on that bottled spider, whose deadly web ensnareth thee about?
- ___ 4. The day will come that thou shalt wish for me to help thee curse this poisonous bunch-backed toad.
- ___ 5. But then I sigh and, with a piece of Scripture, tell them that God bids us do good for evil.
- ___ 6. “Seize on him, Furies, take him unto torment!”
- ___ 7. How fain, like Pilate, would I wash my hands of this most grievous murder!

THE TEMPEST

EXERCISE 19 STYLE: POETIC DEVICES

Identify the allusions in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. mythology b. religion c. literature d. witchcraft/magic e. folklore

ACT I

- ___ 1. Lend thy hand and pluck my magic garment from me.
- ___ 2. O, a cherubin thou wast that did preserve me!
- ___ 3. Jove's lightnings, the precursors o' th' dreadful thunderclaps, more momentary and sight-outrunning were not.
- ___ 4. The fire and cracks of sulfurous roaring the most mighty Neptune seem to besiege, and make his bold waves tremble.
- ___ 5. Hast thou forgot the foul witch Sycorax, who with age and envy was grown into a hoop?
- ___ 6. All the charms of Sycorax – toads, beetles, bats, light on you!

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