

# Using literary elements in journalism

Implementing literary elements like imagery, alliteration, and allusion can give bland articles a new breath of life

# Imagery

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- The use figurative language to represent objects, actions and ideas in such a way that it appeals to our physical senses. Usually it is thought that **imagery** makes use of particular words that create visual representation of ideas in our minds.
- Catches the reader's attention, keeps things interesting

# Do:

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“The smell of rotting piano filled the air as a man, bent like an accordion, leaned over the piano’s remains, pressing its pearly ribs into a suspended melody. He pushed his long brown hair up into his knit beanie and looked out of the concrete-lined window over the city.

This man’s name is Joe Reinhart.

Since first picking up a guitar as a teenager Reinhart, guitarist of Hop Along, has been in love. Not with the fame of his trade, but with music.”

# Alliteration

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- a stylistic device in which a number of words, having the same first consonant sound, occur close together in a series.
- Can be in the beginning, middle or end of the words.
- Not super noticeable most of the time, but it makes you sound a lot better
- Forcing this can end up with a very Doctor Suess piece

Do:

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“New **p**layer *to* the **P**ennsbury football *team*, Josh Eunder, **p**unted six field goals at last *night’s* game, **p**aralleling Neshaminy’s long *time* kicker, *Trevor Lineheart*, who has **p**acked three Varsity seasons into his high school football career.”

# Allusion

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-a brief and indirect reference to a person, place, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance. It does not describe in detail the person or thing to which it refers. It is just a passing comment and the writer expects the reader to possess enough knowledge to spot the allusion and grasp its importance in a text.

Do:

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In *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville creates a sense of impending doom when he names the main ship the Pequod. Readers in Melville's time period would have been more familiar with the Pequot people, a Native American tribe who were driven to extinction.

# Horses

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- The carry through of an idea, feeling, image, metaphor or implication within a piece
- Often only used in micro fiction



# Examples

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Anything Amy Hempel

# Other literary devices to use

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- Irony
- Puns
- Parallel structure
- Onomatopoeia
- Simile
- Tone

# Try it

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- The next slide will be yours prompt
- You will get a photograph and basic information
- Write the intro of an article about this using at least 2 literary elements, either from here or elsewhere
- You can make up quotes or whatever for this

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Controversy followed after Starbucks changed their holiday themed cup to a plain red cup last year, as some Americans claimed that they were perpetuating the war on Christmas.

