Simile

Simile is a figure of speech in which an explicit comparison is made between two essentially unlike things.

A simile contains:

a. Tenor,
b. Vehicle
c. Word of simile: like, as

For example, "His teeth are like pearls".

This is an example of simile in which teeth [tenor] are compared with "pearls"[vehicle] by supplying 'like' as word of simile.

Simile adds beauty in the sentence as well as the object presented.

If the comparison is made with a thing which is not good or lower than normal level, then it impact is otherwise. It will bring about humour or satire.

Figure of Speech

Figure of speech means an example of saying something and meaning something else in order to bring about impressive effect. Similes, metaphors, symbols, metonymy, synecdoche, , apostrophe, oxymoron, and hyperbole are different figures of speech

Metaphor

Metaphor is a figure of speech in which one thing is taken for granted as another thing on the basis of analogy between them.

For example, mothers call their sons as 'moon'. Here they take moon for the son on the basis of brilliance, coolness, shine, beauty, general appeal and acceptance of the all.

Symbol

Symbol is a figure of speech in which some thing [object, person, situation or action] means more than what it is.

There are many kinds of symbols – cultural symbols, social symbols, political symbols but here we mean literary symbols.

Tower, road, swans are symbols in English literature. The play Rising of the Moon is symbolic
Metonymy

Metonymy is figure of speech that compares unlike things in such a way that one is closely related to the other what is actually meant for.

Example:

Malt does more than Milton can
To justify God's ways to man

Malt means bear or ale of which malt is an ingredient.

Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a figure of speech that compares unlike things in such a way that part is considered as a whole thing.

For example Shakespeare uses synecdoche when he says that the cuckoo's song is unpleasing to a "married ear" i.e. married man.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is simply an exaggeration on the basis of some truthful analogy.

For example the flight of eagle 'close to the sun in lonely lands' in Tennyson's poem "The Eagle" is hyperbolic. It doesn’t look out of place. When we watch the eagle flying high, it seems close to the sun. Practically it is impossible. Anyhow, this exaggeration doesn’t look out of place and can rightly be called hyperbole.

Personification

Personification is a figure of speech in which human attributes are given to an animal, an object or a concept.

For example:

1. Silvia Plath make a mirror speak and think in "Mirror"
2. Stormy, husky, brawling, 
   City of the big shoulders:
   Cities don’t have shoulders. Chicago is a considered as human being having shoulders.
3. Justice is blind.
   In this example, a concept of justice is made as human or living thing e.g. blind.
Alliteration

Alliteration is a sequence of repeated initial sounds usually before stressed syllables.

Examples:

Full fathom five thy father lies
[The Tempest by Shakespeare]

When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
[Spring by G.M.Hopkin]

He claps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands.
[The Eagle by Alfred Tennyson]

Assonance

Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in words very close to each other.

For example there are underlined long e vowel sounds in Lotos-Easters by Tennyson

Music that brings sweet sleep down from the blissful skies.
Here are cool mosses deep,
And through the moss the ivies creep,
And in the stream the long-leaved flowers weep,
And from the craggy ledge the poppy hands in sleep.

Consonance

Consonance means the repetition of the same or similar consonant sounds.

I thought of some who worked dark pits
Of war, and died
Digging the rock where Death reputed
Peace lies indeed

Consonance is found in chaired and cheered, amber and ember, loads and lids,
groaned and ground

Oxymoron

Oxymoron is combination of contradictory terms.
For example:

Romeo in Act 1, scene 1 of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."

Why then, O brawling love! O loving hate!
O heavy lightness, serious vanity;
Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms!
Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health!

**Allegory**

Allegory is a small story in which characters, objects, actions and situations are likely to be interpreted on different levels of symbols and metaphors in which sometimes different objects of nature behave like human beings.

For example: King Lear which is a famous play of Shakespeare and can be interpreted on different levels of metaphors and symbols and the king says, “Butchers not daughters” We find here snakes, scorpions, crocodile, loggerheads, lions, foxes etc etc in the person of different characters.

Similarly, Old Man and the Sea can also be interpreted at different allegorical patterns.

**Euphemism**

The art of using a mild word or phrase as a substitute for another word or phrase which is undesirable, direct, unpleasant, or offensive.

For example:

The word *joint* is euphemism for *prison*.

**Onomatopoeia**

Onomatopoeia is a literary device in which the words echo the sound they represent.

The words "splash." "knock," and "roar" are examples.

**Paradox**

Paradox is a statement that looks illogical but is quite logical and befitting if understood closely.

John Donne in Holy Sonnet No 14 says:

“That I may rise, and stand, o'erthrow me.”
The poet paradoxically asks God to knock him down so that he may stand. What he means by this is for God to destroy his present self and remake him.

**Pun**

Pun is an art of using one word having two or more different meanings and each of them befits the situation and creates poetic beauty in the expression.

For example, when Mercutio is stabbed and knows that he is dying in Romeo and Juliet, he says:

“Ask for me tomorrow and you shall find me a **grave** man.”

**Grave** means serious and it also reminds of grave for dead.

**Irony**

Irony is an art of indirect expression or speech which means what is unsaid. It has various kinds but irony of situation, dramatic irony, sarcasm, Socratic irony is few of them.

For example, if we call a weak and extremely thin person as Bruce Lee. It aims at bringing about humour as well as criticism.

**Satire**

Art of unleashing follies, weaknesses, whims to amuse or ridicule is called as satire. It is of many kinds e.g. mild satire, pungent satire, acidic satire, rapier like satire etc. etc.

**Gulliver Travels, Joseph Andrews** are the works in prose with profuse satire of many kinds on every next line.

**Farce**

Farce is a type of comedy based on stupidity and simplicity.

For example, some robbers mistakenly enter into police station to hide.

**Rhythm**

Rhythm means cumulative effect of recurrences of stressed and unstressed syllables at equal intervals as well as selection of words of suitable sounds within the lines of a verse.

Sometimes there are lines exactly same in meter but different in rhythm. It is because of selection of words that make rhythm rhythmic or unrhythmic.
Rhyme

Rhymes are the words usually placed in the end of the line of the verse that repeat its final sound under some systematic arrangement. This arrangement of rhymes is called rhyme scheme.

Sometimes rhymes are built within the lines and sometimes the rhymes within carry repeated sounds not on the final parts of words but in the beginning of them. All kinds of these rhymes give rise to rhythm and melody within the lines.

Sometimes the rhymes are not complete and perfect. They can be said as imperfect rhyme, incomplete rhyme, one eyed rhyme or half rhyme.

Refrain

A repeated word, phrase, line, or group of lines, normally at some fixed position in a poem written in stanzaic form.

Caesura

Caesura is a natural pause or break in a line.

Yes, I remember Adlestrop –
The name, because one afternoon
Of heat the express-train drew up there
Unwontedly. It was late June.
There is caesura after yes, the name, of heat, unwontedly.

Tone

The attitude of the writer towards his subject, the reader, the audience or himself or herself in colouring the emotions appropriate for the meaning to be communicated in the given work is called as tone.

It can be harsh, genial, kind, friendly, persuasive, obtrusive, anger, approval, proud, piteous, etc etc.

For example, the tone of the poem is suggestive in “Metro: Paris”

Theme

Theme is the central idea or point of view of a work. It is usually an answer to the question: “What is that work for?”

Some great works do bear more than one theme. For example, King Lear bears many theme including madness and blindness.
Apostrophe

Apostrophe is a figure of speech in which speaker speaks directly to something which is nonhuman or nonexistent.

For example, John Donne in “The Sun Rising” addresses the sun:

“Busy old foole, unruly sunne,
Why dost thou thus,
Through windows, and through curtains call on us?”