Appendix – 2

Definitions of Figures of Speech

Figure of Speech	What It Is
Alliteration	The repetition of the same sounds or of the same kinds of sounds at the beginning of words or in stressed syllables of a phrase
Allusion	A figure of speech in which one refers covertly or indirectly to an object or circumstance from an external context. It is left to the reader or hearer to make the connection
Anastrophe	A figure of speech in which the syntactically correct order of subject, verb and object is changed
Anticlimax	An abrupt descent (either deliberate or unintended) on the part of a speaker or writer from the dignity of idea which he appeared to be aiming at
Antithesis	This figure of speech is used when two opposites are introduced in the same sentence, for contrasting effect.
Apostrophe	It occurs when a speaker breaks off from addressing the audience (e.g. in a play) and directs speech to an absent third party. Often it is a personified abstract quality or inanimate object. In dramatic works and poetry written in or translated into English, such a figure of speech is often introduced by the vocative exclamation "O".
Climax	A figure of speech in which words, phrases, or clauses are arranged in order of increasing importance
Epigram	A brief, interesting, memorable, and sometimes surprising or satirical statement
Euphemism	Generally an innocuous word or expression is used in place of one that may be found offensive or suggest something unpleasant. Some euphemisms are intended to amuse; while others use bland, inoffensive, and often misleading terms for things the user wishes to dissimulate or downplay. Euphemisms are used for dissimulation, to refer to topic that are taboo in a polite way, and to mask profanity
Exclamation	A figure of speech where strong feeling and emotions are expressed for poetic effect
Hendiadys	Use of two nouns to express an idea when it normally would consist of an adjective and a noun
Hyperbole	The use of exaggeration as a figure of speech. It may be used to evoke strong feelings or to create a strong impression, but is not

Figure of Speech	What It Is
	meant to be taken literally.
Interrogation	A figure of speech in which a question is asked not for the sake of getting an answer, but to put a point more effectively.
Irony	A rhetorical device or literary technique or event characterized by an incongruity, or contrast, between what the expectations of a situation are and what is really the case, with a third element, that defines that what is really the case is ironic because of the situation that led to it.
Metaphor	A figure of speech that describes a subject by asserting that it is, on some point of comparison, the same as another otherwise unrelated object in an intrinsic manner
Metonymy	A figure of speech in which a thing or concept is called not by its own name but rather by the name of something associated in meaning with that thing or concept
Onomatopoeia	A word that phonetically imitates, resembles or suggests the source of the sound that it describes.
Oxymoron	Two terms used together, that normally contradict each other
Paradox	An anomalous juxtaposition of incongruous ideas for the sake of striking exposition or unexpected insight. It functions as a method of literary composition - and analysis - which involves examining apparently contradictory statements and drawing conclusions either to reconcile them or to explain their presence
Periphrasis	In rhetoric, it is a roundabout description of something commonly considered to be a stylistic device
Personification	The attribution of human form or other characteristics to anything other than a human being
Pun	A form of word play that suggests two or more meanings, by exploiting multiple meanings of words, or of similar-sounding words, for an intended humorous or rhetorical effect
Repetition	This figure constitutes of repeating the same word/phrase/expression for the sake of emphasis
Simile	A rhetorical figure expressing comparison or likeness that directly and extrinsically compares two objects through some connective word such as like, as, so, than, or a verb such as resembles
Synecdoche	A figure of speech in which a term that denotes one thing is used to refer to a related thing. To be more precise, in synecdoche, a term for a part of something refers to the whole of something, or vice-versa
Transferred Epithet	A literary device that can be described as an abnormal, unexpected change of two segments in a sentence