



# *15 Examples of Figurative Language*

*By: Isaiah Rocco, Jacob Nicholls, Lane Murphy, Luke Prince, Emily Woodward*

# Sentence Structure

- ▶ "These 22 million victims are waking up. Their eyes are coming open. They're beginning to see what they used to only look at. They're becoming politically mature. They are realizing that there are new political trends from coast to coast. As they see these new political trends, it's possible for them to see that every time there's an election the races are so close that they have to have a recount," (Malcolm X, 11).

# Parallelism

- "Today is a day for mourning and remembering."
- The parallel structure here is President Reagan saying "mournING" and "rememberING". It flows better than if he would have said "mourning and remembrance".
- Reagan, Ronald. "Address to the Nation on the Space Shuttle Challenger Tragedy." American Rhetoric. 2009. Web. 28 Mar. 2013.

# Punctuation

- "slipped the surly bonds of earth' to 'touch the face of God."
- Mr. Reagan used quotes here to help support his speech, and show how these people were in a better place.
- Reagan, Ronald. "Address to the Nation on the Space Shuttle Challenger Tragedy." American Rhetoric. 2009. Web. 28 Mar. 2013.

# Metaphor

- ▶ "a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity" (I have a dream speech)

# Simile

- ▶ "until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream..."

# Analogy

- ▶ "We have, in a sense, come to the nations capital to cash a check." (I have a dream speech)

# Signifying

- ▶ It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning (I have a dream speech)

# Hyperbole

- "Nancy and I are pained to the core by the tragedy of the shuttle Challenger. We know we share this pain with all of the people of our country."
- If President Reagan is really "pained to the core", he should probably go to the hospital. Also, possibly not everyone in this country was pained, regardless of whether they should have been or not.
- Reagan, Ronald. "Address to the Nation on the Space Shuttle Challenger Tragedy." American Rhetoric. 2009. Web. 28 Mar. 2013.

# Understatement

- ▶ Monty Python and the Holy Grail "tis' just a flesh wound"

# Rhetorical Question

- ▶ "How can you thank a man for giving you what's already yours?"

# Antonomasia

- ▶ "Your Eminences, Your Excellencies, Mr. President:"

# Irony

- ▶ "A friend of mine who's very dark put a turban on his head and went into a restaurant in Atlanta before they called themselves desegregated. He went into a white restaurant, he sat down, they served him, and he said, 'What would happen if a Negro came in here?' And there he's sitting, black as night, but because he had his head wrapped up the waitress looked back at him and says, 'Why, there wouldn't no nigger dare come in here.' " (Malcolm X, 40).

# Antithesis

- ▶ "But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination."

# Anaphora

- ▶ "Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let Freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado."

# Reversed Structure

- ▶ "It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream," (Martin Luther King Jr, 15).