

Literary Styles/Devices/Techniques used in *Animal Farm*

Fable

A fable is generally a story with animals as characters, which also conveys a moral. However, not all fables are solely animal-based.

Ex. The Tortoise and the Hare, The Golden Touch



Allegory

An allegory is where abstract ideas are restructured into a story using concrete characters, figures, and events. Sometimes is used to impart morals and/or wisdom.

Ex. Plato's "Allegory of the Cave;" *The Hunger Games* (political allegory and our obsession with reality TV).



Microcosm

A "little world."

Something small that encapsulates the qualities of something much larger. This isn't just a term used in literature - it's actually used in science, too!

Ex. Polling a small section of the population to get an idea of what the general population thinks.



Satire

- Satire is a literary technique in which behaviors or institutions are ridiculed for the purpose of improving society. It's usually employed as a form of political protest, but what sets it apart from other forms is the humor that the authors use.
- Satire is usually witty, ironic or sarcastic, and usually has a tone of "mock approval" where it is sarcastically supporting the very thing it is criticizing



Parody

an imitation of a writing/acting/genre style with deliberate exaggeration - often produces a comedic effect.

Ex. Weird Al Yankovic, *Scary Movie*, *Saturday Night Live*



Caricature

An imitation of someone (perhaps as a drawing or description) that takes their most striking characteristic and exaggerates it for effect (either comic or grotesque)



Irony

Irony is a figure of speech where either the implied meaning of words is different than their actual meaning, or a situation has unexpected outcomes. There are three types of irony you will need to know:

Verbal: When you mean the opposite of what you're saying.

Ex. When someone does something dumb and you say, "well, that was smart!"

Situational: When the situation doesn't turn out how everyone expects; in fact, it's usually the opposite.

Ex. You laugh at a person who slipped stepping on a banana peel, and the next thing you know, you've slipped too.

Dramatic: When the audience knows what's going on, but the characters do not.

Ex. In a scary movie when you know the killer is in the house, but the characters don't yet.

