

☺ Smiley-Face Tricks ☺

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

MAGIC 3

Definition: Three parallel groups of words, usually separated by commas, that create a poetic rhythm or add support for a point, especially when the three word groups have their own modifiers.

Teacher Example: *I like pizza with pepperoni and extra cheese; hot, buttered popcorn with lots of salt; and three-layer chocolate cake with frosting an inch thick.*

Your Example _____

Example from Literature _____

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Definition: Non-literal comparisons – such as similes, metaphors, and personification – add “spice” to writing and can help paint a more vivid picture for the reader.

Teacher Example: The ship groaned as if protesting against the fury of the storm. (personification)
The clouds are marshmallows floating on a blueberry sky. (metaphor)

Your Example _____

Example from Literature _____

SPECIFIC DETAIL FOR EFFECT

Definition: Instead of general, vague descriptions, specific sensory details help the reader visualize the person, place, thing, or idea that you are describing. Use the five senses.

Teacher Example: We sat in a bus with torn seats, a coughing, hacking engine, and holes in the aisle so deep we could see the road beneath us.

Your Example _____

Example from Literature _____

REPETITION FOR EFFECT

Definition: Repetition of key words or phrases (usually three or more times) in order to emphasize the idea in the mind of the reader.

Teacher Example: *He said* he loved me. *He said* he'd never forget me. *He said* he'd be back for me. He lied.

Your Example _____

Example from Literature _____

EXPANDED MOMENT

Definition: Instead of speeding past a moment, writers often emphasize it by expanding the actions. Let the reader “see” what you see, or “hear” what you’re thinking.

Teacher Example: I sat down, crossed my legs, flipped my hair away from my face, thought about what to say, and began to write.

Your Example _____

Example from Literature _____

HUMOR

Definition: Whenever possible and appropriate, inject a little humor to keep your reader awake.

Teacher Example: *He laughed? I’m nothing. I’m the rear end of nothing, and the devil himself smiled at me.*

Your Example _____

Example from Literature _____

FULL-CIRCLE ENDING

Definition: Include an image at the beginning of a piece of writing and then mention it again at the end, to give your piece a sense of closure.

Teacher Example: **Math class – it’s like a foreign language**, a mystery, a puzzle. First day – my luck – we do fractions. Invert and multiply. I’ve got it memorized, but when do I do it? The teacher talks in numbers, not words, and when she uses words, there’s always a catch – something about trains or planes leaving cities at some time and how fast they were going. She calls them “story” problems. What kind of story is that – the boring kind? **Math class – it’s like a foreign language.**

Your Example _____

Example from Literature _____

HYPHENATED MODIFIERS

Definition: Connect a string of words together with a hyphen, and use it as an adjective to lend an air of originality and sophistication to your writing

Teacher Example: Jane gave her mother one of those *you-don’t-know-what-you’re-talking-about* looks.

Your Example _____

Example from Literature _____