

# Literary Devices Used for Comparison and Representation

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# Good to Know!

Many literary devices connect reality and fiction by creating rich comparisons and mental representations.

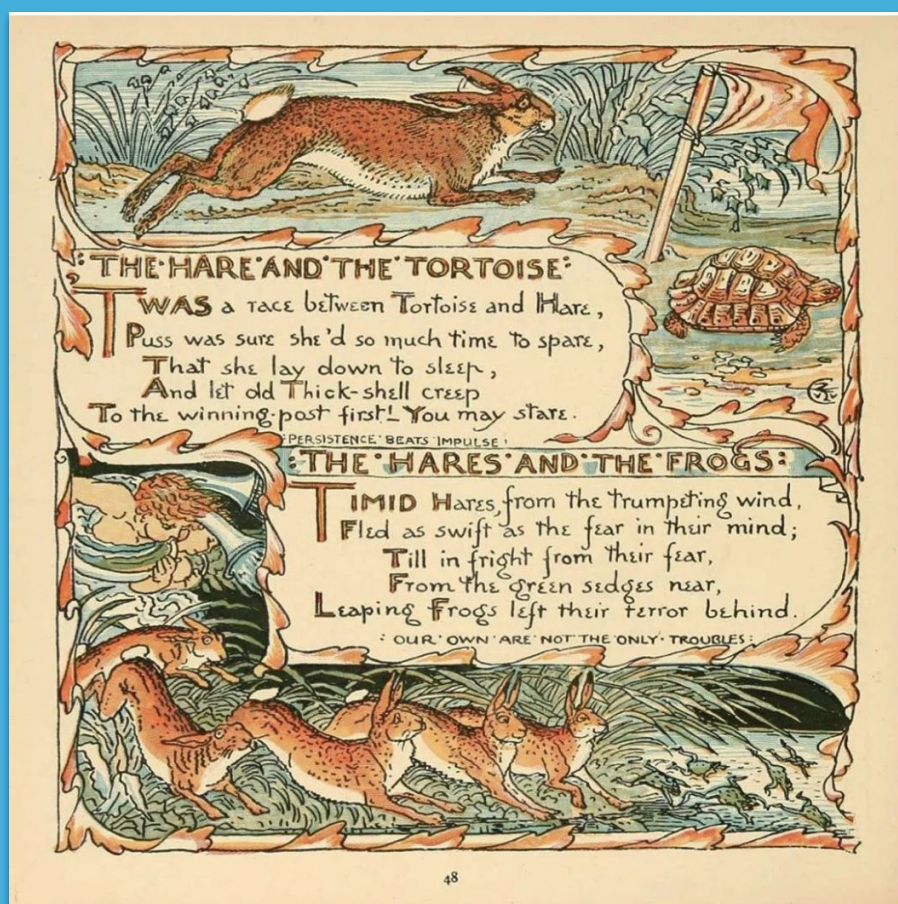
These devices include allegories, similes, metaphors and symbols. Let's have a look at each of them.



# Allegory

An allegory is a way to deliver complex messages with the help of a simpler story or images.

Most fables are allegories that help children understand complex ideas.



By Walter Crane (1845-1915) 'The Hare and the Tortoise' Baby's Own Aesop's Fables, 1887

# Simile

A simile is a direct comparison that solicits what we know to create an effect.

For example, if we just say: “Frank ran fast,” it doesn’t have the same effect as “Frank ran **as fast as a lightning.**”



# Metaphor

A metaphor is a comparison too, but it doesn't require "like" or "as." The author is asking you to translate the image into what is actually meant.

"A **sea of people** watched Frank cross the finish line, but no one knew the name of this teenage **thunderbolt.**"



# Symbol

A symbol is something that represents something else. In the example we have just seen, maybe Frank winning the **race** **symbolizes** the way we can **overcome** our own **obstacles**, like all the efforts needed to get a diploma.

Symbols require more context and more analysis.

