

## Techniques for successful descriptive writing

Here are the devices that will help children to create engaging, interesting writing.

### Onomatopoeia

This is a word that phonetically imitates, resembles or suggests the source of the sound it describes.

*"Crunch, crunch, crunch his feet sank into the snow"* **The Snowy Day by Ezra John Keats**

### Alliteration

This device is the repeated sound of the first consonant in a series of multiple words or the repetition of the same sounds or the same kinds of sounds at the beginning of words or in stressed syllables of a phrase.

*"Alice's fat aunt ate apples and acorns around August"* **Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll**

### Repetition

This is the repeating of a word or phrase within a sentence for emphasis.

*"Behind him there were other figures, even more shadowy than he was, even more silent"* **The Amber Spyglass by Philip Pullman**

### Simile

This device compares two things through the explicit use of connecting words such as 'like', 'as', 'so' and 'than'.

*"A giant of a man was standing in the doorway. His face was almost completely hidden by a long shaggy mane of hair and a wild, tangled beard, but you could make out his eyes glinting like black beetles under all the hair."* **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J. K. Rowling**

### Metaphor

A metaphor is used to make a strong image in the reader's head by describing a noun as something unlikely.

*"He got so angry that his anger became a stormcloud exploding thunder and lightning and hailstones."* **Angry Arthur by Hiawyn Oram**

### Personification

This device is when you give an object a human characteristic, e.g. physical movements, emotions, sensations.

*"In the space of thirty seconds, the atmosphere in the tiny room had changed completely and now it was vibrating with awkwardness and secrets."* **Matilda by Roald Dahl**

