

METHODS III – Literary Elements

As you craft your show, think about places in the language where you could do any or all of the following:

Replace clichés

Instead of saying, “33 years is the age Jesus was when he died,” say, “33 years is the number of years it takes to make a great Balblair single malt whiskey.”

Seek contrast

If your message is “Guns are bad,” rather than portray an anti-gun activist, portray a cheery and heart-felt assault-weapon enthusiast.

Employ:

- **Humor and Hyperbole**

Take your gun-enthusiast idea to the max. Be an old granny who whittles guns, bakes cakes in the shape of guns, adorns her Christmas tree with guns and sings to her guns. Or, be a gun yourself.

- **Personification**

Instead of saying “The floor sagged under the weight of his large frame” say “The floorboards screamed ‘Help!’ I think at one point I heard them call 911.”

- **Simile**

Instead of saying “He left her at the altar...” say “He ran from the altar as from the scene of a crime, and he ran back toward his bachelorhood like a prisoner to porn...”

- **Metaphor**

Instead of saying “She was mad,” say “She was ablaze” Or “Her venom entered my system with such a force; I think it poisoned every one of my innards” Or _____

- **Symbolism**

Rather than speak literally of freedom, use symbols of freedom, such as birds, wild horses and vagabonds. Have their journeys parallel those of your character(s).

- **Rhyming**

Example: There once was an ogre from Tikaree, who looked and smelled of sweet chicory. When at last he expired, his family conspired to drink him while dancing ‘round the Hickory.

Yours: _____

- **Alliteration**

Example: Divorcée Dolores drank delicious Dutch Daiquiris in the dank and dark dungeon of her depression. Yours:
