

# Emphatic Devices

Adapted from:

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In order to convey a literary product (theme, tone, mood, or character), a writer may use devices designed to catch the reader/viewer's attention. Some of these emphatic devices are listed below:

- **Rhetorical Questions** – A question for which no reply is expected. *EX. "What is the meaning of life?", "Now, doesn't that sound like fun?"*
- **Purposeful Repetition** – Key words or phrases are repeated. *EX. It is important you study for your test. If you do not study, you will not get the marks you deserve! (ex. So, not studying could cost you valuable marks.)*
- **Sentence Fragments** – A sentence which is not complete, and makes little sense when isolated. *EX. Slammed the door and left.*
- **Sentence Brevity** (Short sentences) – *EX. He jumped. There was silence.*
- **Use of Punctuation** – “!”, “...”, “?”, “ –“
- **FONT style** – **Hello!**, Hello!, *Hello!* (bold, capitalized, italics, underlined words)
- **Use of Parallel Structure** – *EX. Be sure to eat your supper, complete your homework, and study your notes before going to sleep tonight.*
- **Unusual Expressions** – “Beep. I'm sorry there must be some mistake. Beep”.
- **Effective Diction** – Word choice with a particularly strong connotation or tone. *EX. Vulgar, Anguish, Peril, Regurgitate, Exasperated*