

ENGLISH – WEEK 5 - CREATIVITY

Devices are the crux of creativity – without them, our writing and visual text can be bland and uninspiring.

Literary Device	Definition	Example
Alliteration		
Assonance		
Symbolism		
Metaphor		
Simile		
Irony		
Adjective		
Jargon		
Adverb		
Onomatopoeia		
Oxymoron		
Personification		
Allusion		
Hyperbole		

From “Federer as Religious Experience” by David Foster Wallace (2006)

A top athlete's beauty is next to impossible to describe directly. Or to evoke.

Federer's forehand is a great liquid whip, his backhand a one-hander that he can drive flat, load with topspin, or slice — the slice with such snap that the ball turns shapes in the air and skids on the grass to maybe ankle height.

His serve has world-class pace and a degree of placement and variety no one else comes close to; the service motion is lithe and uneccentric, distinctive (on TV) only in a certain eel-like all-body snap at the moment of impact.

His anticipation and court sense are otherworldly, and his footwork is the best in the game—as a child, he was also a soccer prodigy.

All this is true, and yet none of it really explains anything or evokes the experience of watching this man play. Of witnessing, firsthand, the beauty and genius of his game.

1. Metaphor: A metaphor is a figure of speech that identifies something as being the same as some unrelated thing for rhetorical effect. Circle the metaphors.
2. Adjectives are words that describe or modify other words. Underline the adjectives.

Start with the following statements. Improve them by adding at least four literary devices:

The ball rolled along the ground until it was kicked by the opposing team
He swang his arm and hit the ball at record speed

She swam very fast and won gold

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpeSSMuWqis>

Did you like this ad? Why why not?

Hero", by Mick Gower

'Of course I took drugs. Look, son,
there's no fair play, no gentlemen,
no amateurs, just winning.
How old are you? Fifteen? Well,
you should know that
no-one runs for fun - well, not beyond
the schoolboy stuff - eleven or twelve years
old.
I'd been pro for years; my job - to get that
gold.
Mind you, we English are an odd lot:
like to believe we love the slob that fails,
the gentlemanly third;
so any gap-toothed yob who gets the glory
also gets some gentlemanly trait: helps
cripples get across
the street, nice to small animals. You know
the kind of thing,
it helps the public feel it's
all legit: the sportsmanship is real and that it's
all clean fun -
the strongest, bravest, fittest,
best man won.
Yeah, steroids... What do you think?...
Oh, don't be wet -

My coach, of course, he used to get them
through this vet... The side effects? Wee, not
so bad
as these things go - for eighteen months or so
I didn't have much use for girls.
But, then I was training
for the big one - got to keep the body pure,
not waste an ounce of effort.'
He gives a great guffaw.
A chain of spittle
rattles down the front of
his pyjama jacket.
He wipes his mouth;
his eyes don't laugh at all.
'...Do it again? Of course I would -
I'd cheat, I'd box, I'd spike, I'd pay the devil's
price
to be that good again
for just one day. You see, at twenty-three
I peaked - got all I ever wanted:
all anyone would ever want from me.
After the race, this interviewer told me
fifty million people's hopes and dreams had
been
fulfilled. Gold!
How many ever get that chance? I did.
Of course not.
Damn, the bell. You'd better go, they're
pretty strict.
Yeah, leave the flowers there on the top,
The nurse'll get some water and a vase.'

What do you think is the relationship between the man and the boy in the hospital?

What is the boy's attitude towards the man?

What techniques does the poem use to mirror the man's style of speaking?

The poem is a monologue in that we only hear the man speaking. What do you think the boy is saying? Write down his half of the conversation.

What do you think of the man's attitude? If you had been in his position, with his talent, what choices would you have made?

What line suggests that the man regrets his actions?

Who, or what, does the poem suggest is to blame for the pressuring the man to take performance enhancing drugs?

Why do sporting personalities take performance enhancing drugs?

<http://www.uqccr.uq.edu.au/newsevents/news/new-study-australians-say-no-to-performance-enhancing-drugs.aspx>

Do you think it is OK to use performance enhancing drugs? Why or why not?