

Analysis of Literary Devices Used in “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”

Literary devices are tools used by writers to convey their emotions, ideas, and themes to make texts more appealing to the reader. Samuel Taylor Coleridge has used various literary devices to enhance the intended impacts of his poem. Some of the major literary devices have been analyzed below.

1. **Symbolism**: Symbolism is a use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities, by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literal meanings. Here, Albatross is a symbol of good luck and woman represents perpetual temptation.
2. **Rhetorical Question**: Rhetorical question is a sentence that is posed to make the point clear. For example, “What manner of man art thou?”, “That signal made but now?” and “Is this the hill? Is this the kirk?”
3. **Enjambment**: It is defined as a thought in verse that does not come to an end at a line break; instead, it continues to the next line. For example,

“Laughed loud and long, and all the while
His eyes went to and fro.”

4. **Imagery**: Imagery is used to perceive things involving five senses. For example, “What loud uproar bursts from that door”, “I stood on the firm land” and “The boat came closer to the ship.”
5. **Metaphor**: It is a figure of speech in which an implied comparison is made between the objects that are different. The entire poem is an extended metaphor for a supernatural theme, an allusion to Christ’s death and sacrifices through the Mariner’s life and adventure. Albatross is a metaphor for a mental burden or curse. In “spring of love gushed from my heart” is ‘spring of love’ is a metaphor for love and attraction.
6. **Personification**: Personification is to give human qualities to inanimate objects. For example, “The Sun came up upon the left, Out of the sea came he! And he shone bright, and on the right, Went down into the sea.” As if the Sun is a person who can swim or dive.
7. **Simile**: It is a figure of speech in which an implied comparison is made between the objects that are different using ‘as’ or

'like'. For example, "Every soul, it passed me by, Like the whizz of my crossbow" in lines 223-224. Here the souls are compared to the speed of the crossbow.

Analysis of Poetic Devices Used in "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"

Poetic and literary devices are the same, but a few are used only in poetry. Here is the analysis of some of the poetic devices used in this poem.

1. **Stanza**: A stanza is a poetic form of some lines. The entire poem is divided into seven parts. There are four-line stanzas, five-lined stanzas, and also six-lined stanzas.
2. **Quatrain**: A quatrain is a four-lined stanza borrowed from Persian poetry. Here most stanzas are quatrain.
3. **End Rhyme**: **End rhyme** is used to make a stanza melodious. For example, "tell/well", "bends/friends" and "returns/burns."