

Name _____

Date _____

Rhetorical Devices

Rhetorical devices are techniques that authors and speakers use to persuade, emphasize, or add impact to their message. These devices enhance the effectiveness and memorability of a text or speech by appealing to the audience's emotions, logic, or sense of ethics.

Example:

Alliteration creates rhythm and draws attention to specific phrases, as seen in "She sells seashells by the seashore."

Anaphora, the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses, adds emphasis and creates a rhythmic flow, such as in Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous speech: "I have a dream... I have a dream... I have a dream."

Read the excerpt below from *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens. Then, answer the multiple-choice questions that follow. Each question focuses on a rhetorical device used in the passage.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

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- 1. What rhetorical device is most evident in the repetition of “it was” at the beginning of successive clauses?**
 - A. Allusion.
 - B. Anaphora.
 - C. Hyperbole.
 - D. Metaphor.

- 2. The line “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” is an example of which rhetorical device?**
 - A. Antithesis.
 - B. Alliteration.
 - C. Imagery.
 - D. Personification.

- 3. Which rhetorical device is being used in the phrase “we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going ...”?**
 - A. Parallel Structure.
 - B. Hyperbole.
 - C. Allusion.
 - D. Rhetorical Question.

- 4. What is the overall effect of the rhetorical devices used in this passage?**
 - A. To emphasize the complexity and of the time period.
 - B. To criticize the societal norms of the era.
 - C. To appeal to the reader’s emotions.
 - D. To create a rhythmic and memorable introduction.

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Rhetorical Devices – Answer Key

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