

# Writer's Craft—Literary Devices/Figurative Language

**Allusion**—a reference to another literary work

p. 115 Max watching his father sleep: "I think about that story where the giant falls asleep and is tied up by little people." (an allusion to Gulliver's Travels)

**Alliteration**—repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning or within words

p. 153 "I can check in on Freak and be back before breakfast."

**Flashback**—a scene showing events that happened at an earlier time which hints to the present situation

p. 129 "...I'm four years old again, peeking out from behind the bedroom door and then running to bang my little fists at him while the light fades from her eyes."

**Foreshadowing**—hints a writer gives as to what will happen later in the story

p. 62 Max about Loretta: "Which, as it turns out, is almost true. The real deal is that she's a damsel that *causes* distress. Which we find out the very next day."

**Idiom**—an expression that cannot be understood from the literal meaning of the words

p. 102 Kenny Kane to Max "You really are *a chip off the old block.*"

**Imagery**—details that appeal to at least one of the five senses—create images and pictures in your mind

p. 153 "The sun is coming out over the millpond and there's this spooky mist on the water. You can hear all the frogs making a racket under the lily pads..."

**Hyperbole**—Extreme exaggeration used to increase the effect of a statement or phrase

p. 139 "I've got my fingernails chewed down to the second knuckle."

**Metaphor**—a comparison between two unlike objects

p. 44 "If you saw me laying on the beach you'd say, hey why's that *albino walrus* wearing sunglasses?"

p. 44 "Get out of bed you lazy beast! There are *maidens to rescue* and *dragons to slay!*"

**Onomatopoeia**—a word that makes a sound which conveys its meaning

p. 153 "...mosquitoes *whizzing* by..."

**Personification**—giving human characteristics to a non-living object

p. 38 in the millpond: "...the mud is still sucking me down."

**Simile**—a comparison between two unlike objects using *like*, *as*, or *than*

p.158 "I felt *like I was a balloon and someone had let the air out of me.*"

Examples from: Philbrick, Rodman. *Freak the Mighty*. New York: Scholastic, 1993.