Personification

Giving things that aren't human the personalities and actions of humans:

The wind whistled its happy tune.

Simile

A figure of speech that compares two unlike things. It is introduced by the words like or as.

She was as pale as a lump of sugar.

Onomatopoeia

Words that are invented to imitate real sounds:

bang, brrrr, clang, ding

Hyperbole

A deliberate exaggeration:

My cat weighs a ton!

Alliteration

The repeating of the same sound at the beginning of two or more words that are next to or near each other:

Slimy slugs slither slowly down the sidewalk.

Metaphor

A comparison of two different things that does not use like or as:

The teacher was a mother hen as she gathered the children together.

Idiom

A saying whose meaning can be understood from the individual words in it:

I've been in the doghouse ever since I forgot to do the dishes.