

THE TRAGEDY OF CAESAR AND POMPEY or CAESAR'S REVENGE

INTRODUCTION

Rhetorical Devices Illustrated from the Play

Alliteration - repetition of initial consonant sounds

With which the wanton wind was wont to play
1.1.10

Allusion - short informal reference to a famous person or event

Thou shalt no less (stout Roman) be renowned
For being Pompey's deaths-man, than was he
That fired the fair Egyptian goddess' church.
2.1.22-24

Amplification - repetition of a word or phrase adding detail to it

And in the world came I being Discord hight,
Discord the daughter of the grisly night,
To make the world a hell of plagues and woes.
2.Prologue.24-26

Anacoluthon - finishing the sentence with a different grammatical structure from that with which it began

O he is gone! Go, hie thee after him -
My vow forbids. Yet still my care is with thee:
1.5.88-89

Analogy - comparing 2 things which are alike in some respect for purpose of explanation

Pompey and Brutus who like Ajax stand
When, as forsook of fortune 'mongst his foes,
Grief stopped his breath nor could he speak his woes.
1.1.46-48

Anaphora - repetition of word or words at the beginning of successive phrases

Cassius hath vowed it to dead Pompey's soul;
Cassius hath vowed it to afflicted Rome:
Cassius hath vowed it: witness heaven and earth!
3.1.22-24

Conduplicatio - repeats the key word from a preceding phrase, clause or sentence

'Tis for thy weal and safety of thy life -
Whose safety I prefer before the world,
1.5.8-9

Distinctio - an explicit reference to a particular meaning to prevent ambiguity

Great Pompey! Great while fortune did him raise
1.Prologue.20

Metanoia - qualifies a statement by recalling it

Accursèd weapon that such blood could spill.

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Nay, cursèd then the author of this deed.

5.1.335-336

Metaphor - compares two different things by speaking of one in terms of the other

And these fair seas that rain down showers of tears

1.5.37

Personification - metaphorically represents an animal or inanimate object as having human attributes

But Rome, our native country, hapless Rome
Whose bowels too ungently we have pierced

1.3.62-63

Polyptoton - repetition of a word in different cases or inflections in the same sentence

The earth that's wont to be a tomb for men
Is now entombed with carcasses of men.

1.Prologue.4-5

Rhetorical question - not answered by the questioner because the answer is obvious, usually a simple "yes" or "no"

What! Dost thou stand to play the oratrix,
And tell a tale of thy dear husband's death?
Doth Pompey, doth thy love move thee no more?

2.2.12-14

Simile - compares two different things which resemble each other in one way

As those that lost in boisterous troublous seas
Beaten with rage of billows stormy strife,
And without stars do sail 'gainst stars and wind
In dreary darkness and in cheerless night,
Without or hope or comfort endless are,
So are my thoughts dejected with dismay

5.1.259-264

Synecdoche - metaphor in which the part stands for the whole

Backed with Numidian and Getulian horse,
Hath felt the puissance of a Roman sword.

3.2.90-91

Definitions of rhetorical devices taken from:

A Handbook of Rhetorical Devices

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