

London 1802 Literary Devices

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Figures of Speech

- **Metaphor:** A direct comparison between two unlike things without using like or as. Example: "She is a fen of stagnant waters:" England is compared to a dirty, still swamp, showing moral and spiritual decay.
- **Simile:** A comparison using like or as. Example: "Thy soul was like a Star, and dwelt apart:" Milton's soul is compared to a bright, distant star, showing purity and greatness.
- **Personification:** Giving human qualities to non-human things. Example: "England hath need of thee:" England is described as if it can feel and need help, like a person.
- **Imagery:** Use of vivid and descriptive language to appeal to the senses. Example: "Thy soul was like a Star... voice... like the sea." Visual and auditory imagery create a strong mental picture of Milton.
- **Allusion:** A reference to another person, text, or historical event. Milton himself is an allusion — a reference to the great poet and moral figure from the past.
- **Symbols:**
 - **Milton:** Milton symbolizes the ideals of the past, particularly those of a more virtuous and just society.
 - **England:** London symbolizes a fallen nation in need of renewal.
 - **Altar, Sword, and Pen:** The "altar" symbolizes religion and spirituality. The "sword" symbolizes military strength and leadership. The "pen" symbolizes intellectual and literary leadership.
 - **Star:** Powerful symbol for guidance.

Literary Terms

- **Sonnet:** A 14-line poem with iambic pentameter. "London, 1802" is a Petrarchan (Italian) sonnet with an octave (first 8 lines) and a sestet (last 6 lines).