

Paradise Lost: Book 1 Literary Device

Writer: John Milton | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

1. Invocation to the Muse: Milton starts with a classical *epic convention*—he calls upon the Heavenly Muse for inspiration.

2. Epic Simile: Milton uses extended, detailed similes that compare Satan to:

- a titan,
- Leviathan (sea monster),
- a tower,
- The moon, etc.

3. Blank Verse: The entire poem is written in unrhymed iambic pentameter, a hallmark of English epics.

4. Allusion: Milton indicates to:

- Biblical stories (Genesis, Fall of Man),
- Greek and Roman mythology,
- Classical epics (Homer, Virgil).

5. Symbolism:

- Hell symbolizes spiritual death.
- Satan symbolizes rebellion and pride.
- Light and darkness symbolize good and evil.

6. Allegory: Characters like Satan, Sin, and Death represent abstract concepts like pride, temptation, and destruction.

7. Apostrophe: Milton often addresses abstract beings (e.g., "Heavenly Muse") directly.

8. Hyperbole: Satan's size, strength, and Hell's vastness are often exaggerated for dramatic effect.

9. Irony: Satan believes ruling in Hell is better than serving in Heaven—this is deeply ironic given his torment.

10. Imagery: Strong visual language paints vivid pictures of:

- burning lakes,
- darkness,
- Towering angels, etc.

LxNotes