

The Grass is Singing Literary Device

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Figures of Speech

- **Irony:** This happens when the opposite of expectation occurs. Example: Gertrude Morel marries Walter. She hopes for love and a better life. But marriage brings poverty, quarrels, and unhappiness. Instead of freedom, she feels trapped. This shows the irony of love turning into bitterness and how dreams of family life can fail.
- **Simile:** A comparison using “like” or “as.” Example: Paul sees Miriam’s devotion as “like a nun’s.” This simile shows how Miriam’s love is pure, spiritual, but also distant from physical passion.
- **Symbolism (Symbols):** Objects or events represent deeper meanings. Example: The mine (pit) symbolizes the hard, dark, and trapped life of the working class. It shapes the Morel family’s struggles. Example: Flowers and nature symbolize Miriam’s spiritual love and Paul’s search for beauty beyond daily life. These symbols highlight the contrast between oppression and hope.
- **The Mine (Pit):** Symbol of Struggle and Entrapment. The coal mine dominates the lives of the Morel family. Walter Morel works there. He spends his days in dark, hard labor. The mine represents poverty, danger, and the trapped life of the working class. It shows how the family cannot escape the weight of industrial struggle.
- **Flowers and Nature:** Symbol of Spiritual Love. Miriam loves flowers, fields, and the countryside. For her, a wild rose or a daffodil is almost holy. Nature represents purity, beauty, and spiritual love. Through it, we see her deep but heavy devotion to Paul. For Paul, nature is both inspiring and suffocating, as it reflects Miriam’s intensity.
- **William’s Death:** Symbol of Broken Dreams. William, the eldest son, is full of promise and loved deeply by his mother. His early death is more than a personal tragedy—it symbolizes the collapse of hope for a better life. After William, all of Gertrude’s dreams fall onto Paul, binding him even more to her.
- **The Moonlight:** Symbol of Desire and Conflict. When Paul and Miriam walk under the moon, it seems to reflect their love. The moonlight makes their moments beautiful but also tense. It symbolizes both passion and the conflict between spiritual love and physical desire.

Moral Lesson:

- A mother's control can block a child's freedom.
- Love without balance brings pain.
- Poverty breaks families apart.
- Inner conflict destroys peace.

LxNotes