**English 9**

# **Notes and Introduction to**

# **Figurative Language**

*Alliteration* – repetition of initial sounds

*Example*: six snakes slithered silently

 *Allusion* – a reference to something assumed to be known, such as a historical event or personage

 *Example*: That guy is a real Romeo with the ladies.

*Assonance* – repetition of similar vowel sounds

*Example*: fleet feet sweep by sleeping geeks.

*Hyperbole* – exaggeration

 *Example*: That bee that stung me was the size of a helicopter!

Understatement – tries to achieve a greater effect by making something seem less than it is.

 *Example*: Black Knight: “’Tis but a scratch.” King Arthur: “A scratch? I cut your arm off!”

*Metaphor* – a direct comparison

 *Example*: He was an ox.

*Onomatopoeia* – words which imitate sounds

 *Example*: sploosh, clang

*Oxymoron* – a pairing of contradictory words or ideas

 *Example*: silent scream, honest lawyer

*Personification* – human characteristics given to an animal, object, or idea

 *Example*: a smiling moon,

*Simile* – a comparison using like or as

 *Example*: He had to go to the bathroom like a racehorse at an iced tea convention

 *Symbol* – an object or image which represents an idea without losing its original identity

 *Example*: Algernon in “Flowers for Algernon”

