

Name _____ **Chiasmus**



Chiasmus

Chiasmus is a literary device in which the grammar of one phrase is inverted in the phrase that follows, so two key concepts from the original phrase reappear in the second phrase in inverted order. It is not the exact words that reappear in inverted order, but the **concepts**.

Chiasmus comes from a Greek word that means "crossed." Basically, to write a chiasmus, you say something, and then you say something very close to what you just said (in different words), but in reverse order of how you said it the first time. Chiasmus uses parallel structure, and is very symmetrical.

EXAMPLES:

By day the frolic, and the dance by night. ~ Samuel Johnson

Who dotes, yet doubts; suspects, yet strongly loves. ~ Shakespeare

DIRECTIONS: Try to complete each chiasmus.

1. She basked in the sun, _____

2. The cow fed us; _____

3. He's dear to my heart, _____