

Elements of 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.

Don't let love deceive you, nor should you deceive the one you love.

The reversal of the words in a chiasmus emphasize the concepts and draw the reader or listener's attention to them.

There are three basic things to remember about chiasmus:

- The concepts that are repeated can be synonymous or contrasting.
- Chiasmus always includes an inversion of words or concepts.
- The concepts in the two sides of a chiasmus are always related.

DIRECTIONS: Underline and deconstruct the chiasmus to show how it contains each element listed in the bullets above.



"The city sleeps and the country sleeps,
The living sleep for their time, the dead sleep for their
time,
The old husband sleeps by his wife and the young
husband sleeps by his wife;
And these tend inward to me, and I tend outward to
them."

~ Song of Myself, Walt Whitman