LITERARY DEVICES: OXYMORON AND PARADOX

**Paradox:** A seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true. Because a paradox is surprising or even shocking, it draws the reader’s attention to what is being said.

*Examples:*
- “I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude.”
  - *Henry David Thoreau*
- “Success is counted sweetest by those who ne’er succeeded.”
  - *Emily Dickenson*
- “We are the hollow men, we are the stuffed men.”
  - *T.S. Elliot*
- “Through dying, we are given life.”

**Oxymoron:** a figure of speech in which contradictory words are combined in a single expression. An oxymoron is often a condensed paradox.

*Examples:*
- “A deafening silence”
- “O heavy lightness”
- “Cold fire”
- “Sick health”
- “Day in night”