

LITERARY DEVICES IN KHUDOYBERDI TUKHTABOYEV'S RIDING THE YELLOW GIANT

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This article examines the use of literary devices in Khudoyberdi Tukhtaboyev's well-known work Riding the Yellow Giant, which holds an important place in Uzbek children's literature. The study focuses on how figurative language contributes to the artistic value and educational impact of the text. Particular attention is given to metaphor, symbolism, hyperbole, personification, imagery, humor, and irony. Through these devices, the author successfully portrays the psychological world of a child while conveying moral and social values in an indirect yet effective manner. The analysis shows that Tukhtaboyev's skillful use of literary devices enhances reader engagement, stimulates imagination, and supports moral development. As a result, Riding the Yellow Giant remains a timeless and influential work in children's literature.

Khudoyberdi Tukhtaboyev is one of the most influential figures in Uzbek children's literature, widely respected for his unique ability to address serious social and moral issues through imaginative storytelling. His works are distinguished by their vivid imagination,

simple yet expressive language, and strong moral orientation, which make them appealing and understandable to young readers. Rather than offering direct moral instructions, the author presents life lessons through engaging narratives, humor, and symbolic situations, encouraging children to think independently and draw their own conclusions.

“Riding the Yellow Giant” is a remarkable example of this artistic approach. The story skillfully blends elements of fantasy and reality, creating a fictional world that reflects real-life experiences, emotions, and challenges faced by children. Through unusual characters and imaginative events, Tukhtaboyev explores important ethical themes such as honesty, responsibility, courage, friendship, and the consequences of one’s choices. This combination allows young readers to explore complex emotional and moral issues in an accessible and enjoyable form.

Moreover, the author’s use of literary devices such as symbolism, irony, exaggeration, and personification enhance the emotional depth and educational value of the work. These devices not only enrich the narrative but also help convey moral messages in a subtle and memorable way. Therefore, this article aims to analyze the major literary devices used in Riding the Yellow Giant and to demonstrate how they contribute to both its artistic quality and its significance in moral and character education.

Children’s Literature.

In children’s literature, literary devices play a crucial role in shaping meaning and emotional impact. They help transform ordinary events into memorable experiences and allow abstract ideas to become concrete and understandable for young readers. Through imagery, symbolism, and exaggeration, writers are able to present complex emotions and moral concepts in a form that is both engaging and age-appropriate. Khudoyberdi Tukhtaboyev uses literary devices not as decorative elements but as functional tools that support character development and thematic depth. Each artistic element in his narratives serves a clear purpose, guiding readers toward deeper reflection without overwhelming them with direct instruction. Through figurative language, humor, and imaginative situations, the author addresses issues such as responsibility, honesty, self-awareness, and personal growth in a way that feels natural and relatable. Moreover, these literary devices stimulate children’s imagination and emotional intelligence, encouraging empathy and critical thinking. By allowing readers to experience moral dilemmas through characters rather than through explicit moralizing, Tukhtaboyev creates a learning process that is

subtle yet effective. As a result, his works not only entertain young audiences but also contribute significantly to their moral and psychological development.

2. Metaphor as a Narrative Core.

The central metaphor of the story is the “Yellow Giant.” This image represents the limitless imagination of childhood, as well as exaggerated ambitions and illusions. The giant symbolizes a form of imaginary power that tempts the protagonist to escape real-life duties. By riding the giant, the child enters a world where desires seem easily achievable. However, as the story develops, the metaphor reveals its deeper meaning: unrealistic dreams can lead to misunderstanding and disappointment. This metaphorical structure allows the author to explore psychological development without explicit explanation.

3. Symbolism and Moral Depth.

Symbolism is another key element of the narrative and plays an important role in conveying the author’s deeper messages. The journey of the main character functions not only as a physical adventure but also as a powerful symbol of inner growth and moral awakening. As the protagonist moves forward, each stage of the journey represents a new level of self-understanding and emotional maturity. The obstacles encountered along the way symbolically reflect real-life challenges faced by children, such as making responsible choices, dealing with fear or uncertainty, and learning to accept the consequences of one’s actions. These symbolic situations help young readers recognize similar experiences in their own lives. At the same time, the symbolic dimension of the story encourages readers to interpret events independently rather than accept ready-made conclusions.

By engaging with symbols on a deeper level, children are guided toward critical thinking and moral reflection. This approach allows the story to function not only as entertainment but also as a meaningful educational tool that supports the development of values, independence, and ethical awareness.

4. Hyperbole and Emotional Expression.

Hyperbole is frequently employed to reflect a child’s emotional perception of reality. Actions, fears, and achievements are deliberately exaggerated, creating a humorous and dynamic tone that captures the attention of young readers. This exaggeration mirrors the way children experience the world, where emotions often magnify situations and make even ordinary events seem extraordinary. Through hyperbole, the author effectively conveys intense feelings such as excitement, fear, pride, or disappointment in a form that feels authentic to a child’s inner world. At the same time, exaggeration adds a playful quality to

the narrative, making serious ideas more accessible and less intimidating. Hyperbole also strengthens reader engagement by increasing emotional involvement and encouraging imagination, thereby enhancing both the entertainment value and the educational impact of the story.

5. Personification and Imaginary Reality.

Personification is used to animate the fictional world of the story. Imaginary beings and objects are given human qualities such as speech, emotion, and intention. This technique blurs the boundary between reality and fantasy, which is characteristic of a child's worldview. As a result, readers develop an emotional connection with the story and its characters.

6. Imagery and Descriptive Language.

Tukhtaboyev's use of imagery significantly enhances the visual and emotional richness of the text. Through carefully chosen descriptive language, the author enables readers to vividly imagine scenes, characters, and emotional states, making the story more lifelike and engaging. Such sensory details appeal to sight, sound, and feeling, helping young readers connect more deeply with the narrative world.

Imagery also strengthens the impact of other literary devices, such as symbolism and hyperbole, by providing a concrete foundation for abstract ideas. As a result, the narrative becomes more immersive and emotionally resonant. Moreover, vivid imagery plays a crucial role in maintaining the reader's interest and supporting deeper comprehension, as children are more likely to understand and remember ideas that are presented through clear and imaginative descriptions.

7. Humor and Irony as Educational Tools.

Humor and irony are essential stylistic features of *Riding the Yellow Giant*. Irony often highlights the contrast between expectations and reality, revealing the limitations of childish overconfidence. Humor softens serious themes, making them accessible without diminishing their importance. Through laughter, the reader gains insight into personal responsibility and self-awareness.

8. Educational Value of the Work.

The combination of literary devices in the story contributes to its strong educational value. Readers are encouraged to reflect on their actions and emotions while enjoying the narrative. The indirect presentation of moral lessons allows children to internalize values

naturally. Additionally, the rich language supports linguistic development and aesthetic appreciation.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, *Riding the Yellow Giant* demonstrates Khudoyberdi Tukhtaboyev's mastery of literary devices in children's literature. Through metaphor, symbolism, hyperbole, personification, imagery, humor, and irony, the author creates a narrative that is both entertaining and meaningful. These devices enrich the artistic structure of the work while promoting moral growth and imagination. Consequently, the story remains a significant contribution to Uzbek literature and continues to influence new generations of readers.

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