

# Metonymy and Synecdoche



# Metonymy or not a Metonymy?

- The rebels wanted to overthrow the throne.
- The White House is making a statement in an hour.
- My life is a train wreck.
- The press is under fire for publishing “fake news”.
- Life is a box of chocolates.

# Metonymy


- One representative terms stands for something else. It is a close association
- *Eg. “The Crown” represents everything to do with the Royal Family, their representatives, the economy, etc.*



## ▸ Synecdoche

- Uses one representative part to describe the whole.  
(Trick: Small)
- *Eg. I finally bought my own wheels.*





# Which ones are examples of synecdoche?

- “Friends, countrymen, lend me your ears”
- The sun smiled on the bathers below.
- All hands on deck!
- Love is a battlefield
- The heads were sent out to the range with the cowboys



# METONYMY VERSUS SYNECDOCHE

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which something is introduced by a new name that is related to the original thing or concept.

Metonymy uses a related name or concept.

Metonymy examples mostly include proper nouns.

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Synecdoche is a figure of speech where a word or phrase that refers to a part of something is used to represent the whole or vice versa.

Synecdoche uses a part to represent the whole or vice versa.

Synecdoche examples often include common nouns, especially body parts.

# Testers

- Let's go to Mickey D's after school today to get fries.
- Hey man, I like your threads.
- The lake was a mirror of glass.
- The concert was set but the strings were late setting up.
- Running like the wind, he caught the bus.
- It was the town's mechanic, not the rich lawyer, that had the nicest ride.



# Why do we care??

- You don't have to call everything by its specific name: you can call it by something that it is related to
- Avoids meaningless repetition
- Excellent tools for symbolism or deeper meanings
- They help shorten things up. Eg. "The four guards with rifles guarded the gates" vs "The four rifles guarded the gates"