



## House Arrest - Examples of Figurative Language

### Winter

P. 2 - repetition imagery, hyperbole/idiom

The word “I” repeated 6x

I sit on her **squishy couch**

**my mouth sealed shut**  
**my eyes burning holes**

The word “**my**” repeated 2x

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P. 3 - simile, onomatopoeia

**Sounds like a kung fu move.**

I adjudicated you in your face!

**HI-YA**

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P. 4. - metaphor, repetition, personification

Congrats, James, you have graduated  
and are now  
a complete  
Tool.

The phrase “**Do you hear me**” repeated 3x

A **personal journal** is very crowded  
**With so many eyes.**

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P. 5 - repetition, simile, hyperbole, alliteration

The phrase “**every day**” repeated 2x

It's pretty simple.  
**Like a court-ordered cage,**  
with a mom-shaped lock.

Or they'll throw you in juvie  
**so fast**  
**your head will spin**  
**As if my head isn't already spinning.**

On that day, weeks ago, I'd **lost my head**.  
Everything **foggy and frosty**,

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P. 6 - repetition

The word "**so**" repeated 5x  
The phrase "**so tired**" repeated 2x  
The word "**for**" repeated 5x

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P. 7 - repetition, onomatopoeia

The word "**thinking**" repeated 3x

**Things happen.**  
**Things happened.**

The word "**It**" repeated 2x

The word "**sorry**" repeated 2x

The phrase "**It would have**" repeated 2x

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P. 8 - hyperbole, imagery

**Nine months ago.**  
**Feels like nine years.**

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P. 9 - repetition

Then the phone rang n the **pitch-dark night**

The word "**bad**" repeated 2x

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P. 10 - repetition

The words “**brand new**” repeated 2x

The word “**anything**” repeated 2x

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P. 11

The word “**understand**” repeated 3x

The word “**day**” repeated 2x

The word “**head**” repeated 2x

The word “**hole**” repeated 2x

The phrase “**Levi’s neck**” repeated 2x

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P. 12 - simile, imagery, hyperbole, metaphor, repetition

I guess the trach is **like a plastic nostril**  
in Levi’s neck

It has all the gross stuff that nostrils have:

**slippery boogers**

and **slime**

and **gunk**

And when he sneezes, **these snot bullets shoot out.**

So, yeah. **It’s a plastic nostril in your neck.**

The words “**does it**” repeated 2x

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P. 13 - repetition, simile, hyperbole

The word “**choke/chokes**” repeated 2x

When he chokes we use the suction machine

and it is so loud

**like a jackhammer drinking a Slurpee**

I told him I was getting a tracking device on my ankle

and if I leave the house

**it will blow my whole leg off**

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P. 14 - repetition

The word “**I’m**” repeated 2x

The word “**know**” repeated 2x

The word “**about**” repeated 3x

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P. 15 - repetition

The word “**about**” repeated 2x

The word “**know/knows**” repeated 2x

The word “**But**” repeated 2x

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P. 16 - repetition, rhyme

The words “**at all**” repeated 2x

That **day**.  
Always in my head.  
Won't go **away**.

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P. 17 - Idiom

**My brain went white.**

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P. 19 - onomatopoeia

Even when the pharmacy door **ding-dinged**

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P. 20 - imagery, simile, repetition

**slamming** the journal shut  
**almost as hard as my heart slamming into my ribs**

The sentence “**I'm just a kid**” repeated 2x

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P. 21 - repetition, rhyme, hyperbole/idiom

The word “**words/word**” repeated 3x

**Trach** is one.  
You remember that one, right?

It rhymes with **brake** and **take**.

He hangs on the wedge so his trach stays unobstructed.

**That sentence is my world now.** (*has your entire attention*)

The word “**world**” repeated 3x

The word “**normal**” repeated 3x

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P. 22- repetition

The word “**even**” repeated 2x

The word “**hands**” repeated 2x

The word “**fractions**” repeated 2x

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P. 23- repetition, imagery

The words “**four sisters**” repeated 2x

The words “**house/houses**” repeated 3x

Even with Levi's **jackhammer suction machine**

But they have these **fuzzy, soft heads**

They have **slurpy smiles**.

The words “**slurpy smiles**” repeated 2x

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P. 24 - repetition

The words “**babies/baby**” repeated 3x

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P. 25 - idiom, repetition

I don't feel like I've **broken through anything**, though.

Really.

**Maybe some things have broken through me.**

The word “**bad**” repeated 2x

The word “**no**” repeated 3x

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P. 26 - idiom

Timothy **we are dead** if we get caught.

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P. 27 - onomatopoeia

And so you sort of suck in air and make a **clacking** noise.

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P. 28 -- repetition

Mac and cheese for dinner  
**again**  
peanut butter but no bread  
**Again**  
powdered milk in stale cereal  
**again**  
going to sleep hungry  
**again**

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P. 37 - repetition

**milk milk milk**  
**more more more**  
**more milk more milk more milk**

---

P. 39 - repetition

**I will never do it again.**  
You must know that, James.  
**I will never do it again.**

Even though sometimes I **wonder**  
just a tiny wonder  
a little piece of dust-size **wonder**  
miniature **wonder**

**What if...**

**What if...**

**What if...**

**What if** I had one more magic wallet...

What if all the bills got paid...

The **wonder** is very tiny

The what if is too dangerous.  
So I will never do it **again**.  
But I do **wonder**.

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P. 40 - repetition

Well, no, **you don't**.  
**You don't** even know Mrs. Bainbridge.  
**You don't** even know why I'm here.  
**You don't** know **anything**.  
Did you ever know **anything**?

**About** Mom?  
**About** Levi?  
How **we** feel?  
What **we** want?

I guess you only thought about your car  
And how fast you could **drive** it  
**Away away away**  
I wish I could **drive**  
**Away away away**

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P. 41 - metaphor, repetition

You can't hear an **angry burrito** cry  
When that **angry burrito**  
was a baby with a trach  
wrapped in a blanket  
**so that** his arms and legs can't move  
**so that** you can bend his neck over a towel  
**so that** you can pull the tube from his neck

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P. 43 - hyperbole, Simile

When I go to Jose's house **it's like another dimension**

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P. 44 - imagery, onomatopoeia

**Beeping** alarms, or **screeching** sisters?

Jose's dad bought a car.  
It's a car he says used to be cool.  
**Now it looks like a giant rusted turtle**  
with no guts inside

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P. 45 - repetition

**I imagine it on fire.**  
**I imagine it on fire in an ocean of lava**  
**with fireproof sharks circling it.**  
**I imagine it on fire in an ocean of lava**  
**with fireproof sharks circling it**  
and shooting it with laser eyes.

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P. 46 - alliteration, imagery, hyperbole, simile

You know those **super sunny** days?  
The ones that come out of nowhere,  
where **every slant of sunshine**  
**bursts through the window blinds**  
warming up whatever they touch  
not too hot  
but just right  
**and you can feel the sun burning your face**  
burning in a good way  
**Like if you could stand inside fireworks**  
**and not get burned?**

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P. 47 - imagery, simile

This fresh-squeezed orange juice  
left on the porch  
with a box of chocolate doughnuts  
with a bag of breakfast tacos  
with **fiery red salsa**  
**is making the insides of my mouth feel**  
**Just like those fireworks**  
**Just like the slant of sunshine**

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P. 48 - hyperbole, simile, repetition

You don't have to always **jump down my throat**  
trying to snatch away my words  
**like they are bombs about to tear the world apart.**



**Do you think every thought I have**  
is about breaking rules?

**Do you think every thought I have**  
is about how to drive you crazy?

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P. 50 - idiom, hyperbole, imagery, repetition

**I can almost see the smoke**  
**shooting from his ears**

**My ears will bleed from all those songs.**  
My heart will explode from running

There is **no** way  
**no** how  
**no** where  
**no** when

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P. 53 - metaphor, hyperbole, imagery (pain of sickness), repetition

There are **sharks in my throat.**  
Tiny **sharks.**  
With supersharp teeth.  
With laser eyes.  
They are destroying my **throat.**

There are trolls in my head.  
Evil trolls.  
With superheavy hammers.  
With **thundering fists.**  
**They are destroying my head.**  
From the inside out.  
It's possible I am dying.  
Infected with sharks and trolls.

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P. 54 - onomatopoeia, hyperbole, repetition

The nurse makes a ***pshhh*** noise.

***You're about to get murdered with words!***

**listening, listening, listening**

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P. 55 - repetition, simile

**You don't** touch the **go-bag**.  
**You don't** go near the **go-bag**.  
The **go-bag** is perfection.  
**It's like a tiny hospital**  
in an ugly red duffel.

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P. 56 - onomatopoeia, repetition

**Dun dun duuuuuuuuuun.**

Sometimes there's a **tsk-ing** noise

Why are **you** sorry, ugly lady at the grocery store?  
Did **you** give Levi a messed-up airway?  
Did **you** give him a trach?

That's the one thing I like about **you**, James.  
Maybe the only thing.  
**You** see Levi all the time.  
And **you** never say **you're** sorry.  
**You** wash **your** hands,  
**you** ruffle his hair,  
**you** soft-punch his tiny baby shoulder

***If your mom is overwhelmed,***  
***if there isn't enough food***  
***if it's not safe for Levi,***

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P. 58 - 59 - extended metaphor (car is being compared to a turtle), idiom

**remove the turtle's eyes,**  
**replace the turtle's leg's with flat tires**  
**take out all of the turtle's guts,**  
**replace with rusted metal**  
**This is the care Jose and his dad are fixing up,**  
**a sad and busted turtle**  
**who somehow managed to save his shell**

but my eyes told him to **shut his pie hole**.

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P. 60 - repetition

**How much he hates** his dad.  
**How much he hates** that car.  
**How much he hates** his sisters.  
**How much he hates** his lunch.

**At least you** can hate your dad to his face.  
**At least you** have time to spend together.  
**At least** your sisters breathe through their noses.  
**At least you** have a decent lunch

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P. 61 - hyperbole

**You'd think maybe I have the black plague**  
the way Mrs. B sucked in her breath  
When she saw me this morning.

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Page 62 - hyperbole

I've been trying to stay upstairs.  
**Keeping my germs in their own galaxy**, far, far away.

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Page 63 - metaphor

I staggered downstairs.  
**The zombie formerly known as Timothy.**

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Page 64 - repetition

The word **brother** repeated 5x

The word **"I"** repeated 4x

The word **"folded"** repeated 2x The word **"patted"** repeated 2x

The word **"He"** repeated 5x

The line **"please don't have him be getting sick"** repeated 5x

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Page 66 - simile, repetition

Sometimes I shake  
**like a little earthquake that is only inside of me.**

The phrase “**It happens when I talk about**” repeated 2x

The phrase “**It happens when I think about**” repeated 2x

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Page 67 - repetition

The phrase “**trust me**” repeated 2x

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Page 68 - simile, alliteration

It was so nice, I could have stayed that way all day  
and all night  
just stuck there on that couch  
anchored  
**still**  
**Safe**  
**looking like a complete dummy**

Even with all of the washing  
and the hand sanitizer  
and wearing a mask  
**like a doctor**

---

P. 69 repetition, hyperbole

The word “**plus**” repeated 2x

The sentence “**That’s all it takes to get to the hospital**” repeated 2x

That’s all it takes  
to get to the hospital.  
**Forever or ten minutes?**  
**Sometimes they’re the same, aren’t they?**

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P. 69 repetition, onomatopoeia, imagery, hyperbole

The word “**running**” repeated 2x

**Slap slap slap slap**

Her bare feet, the hallway empty

On the **speeding gurney**

Holding the ambu bag over his trach  
**Squeezing, squeezing, squeezing**

**The sign shouted INTENSIVE CARE in all caps**

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P. 71 - hyperbole, simile, repetition

**All of our energy had been sucked away  
through the doors at the end of the hall**

And Mom cried on my shoulder  
and she made noises I've never heard before  
**like an animal in a trap, maybe**

The word "**hear**" repeated 2x

The word "**anything**" repeated 2x

**Only those shouting words on the doors  
INTENSIVE CARE INTENSIVE CARE**

**and we were the only two people in the world**  
sitting in that hallway

The word "**floor**" repeated 2x

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P. 72 -- idiom / hyperbole, onomatopoeia

**With the walls crashing down around us**

The nice nurse threatened to **clonk** her on the head

The word "**she**" repeated 4x

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P. 73

The word "**I'm**" repeated 3x

The phrase "**I'm lost**" repeated 2x