

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Chiasmus**



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

- 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:** The passage below is from the book of Mormon, Mosiah 3:18-19. It contains three instances of chiasmus. Use three different colors of highlighter to mark the three instances.

But men drink damnation to their souls except they humble themselves and become as little children, and believe that salvation was, and is, and is to come, through the atoning blood of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent. For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticing of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things.

