

## Figurative Language

**Figurative language** is a tool that an author uses, to help the reader visualize, or see, what is happening in a story or poem.

**Simile** is a comparison using like or as. It usually compares two unlike objects.

Example: His *feet* are as big as *boats*. Feet and boats are being compared.

**Metaphor** states that one thing *is* something else. It is a comparison, but does NOT use like or as to make the comparison.

Example: Her *hair* is *silk*. Hair and silk are being compared.

**Personification** is giving human qualities, feelings, actions, or characteristics to inanimate (not living) objects.

Example: The house stared at me with looming eyes. The ancient car groaned into first gear.

**Alliteration** is the repetition of the initial consonant. There should be at least two repetitions in a row.

Example: **P**eter **P**iper **p**icked a **p**eck of **p**ickled **p**eppers.

**Onomatopoeia** is the imitation of natural sounds in word form. These words help us form mental pictures, or visualize, things, people, or places that are described. Sometimes a word names a thing or action by copying the sound.

Example: Bong! Hiss Buzz!

**Symbolism** occurs when one thing stands for or represents something else.

Example: The dove symbolizes peace.

**Hyperbole** is intentionally exaggerated figures of speech.

Example: It was raining cats and dogs.

**Imagery** involves one or more of your five senses - the abilities to hear, taste, touch, smell, and see. An author uses a word or phrase to stimulate your memory of those senses and to help create mental pictures.

**Idioms** An expression that means something other than the literal meanings of its individual words. They are overused expressions.

## Similes and Metaphors

Decide whether each sentence contains a simile or a metaphor. If it is a simile, underline the simile blue and write "simile" after it. If it is a metaphor, underline the metaphor in red, and write "metaphor" after it. Finally, under each sentence, write what 2 things the simile or metaphor is comparing and what it means.

1. The giant's steps were thunder as he ran toward Jack.
2. The pillow was a cloud when I put my head upon it.
3. The bar of soap was a slippery eel during the dog's bath.
4. I felt like a cheetah when I ran the race.
5. Those boys are like two peas in a pod.



Write your own simile.

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Write your own metaphor.

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## Onomatopoeia



Onomatopoeia is the formation or use of words, such as buzz, that imitate the sounds associated with the objects of action to which they refer.

Brainstorm for approximately 3 minutes. List all of the onomatopoeia words that you can. Don't share lists with others! Do this quietly! Then, let's see how many words you have that the other do not.

## Personification

For each sentence, circle the object being personified and write the meaning under it.

1. The delicious smell of cookies pulled me into the kitchen.
2. The wind sang her mournful song through the falling leaves.
3. The china danced on the shelves during the earthquake.
4. The rain kissed my cheeks as it fell.



Change the words in parentheses to words that would describe a human's actions.

1. The puppy (barked) when I left for school.
2. The leaf (fell) from the tree.
3. The CD player (made a noise).



### Personification in Poetry



Use the lists below to write a poem about nature. Choose a word from List A

Next, choose a word from List B. Write it next to column A.

#### List A

Sun  
Moon  
Stars  
Sky  
Sea  
Stone  
Night  
Mountain  
Dawn  
Morning

#### List B

dances  
cries  
sings  
teaches  
listens  
leaps  
remembers  
whispers  
dreams  
takes

1. Example: flower listens

2. Then expand it into a sentence. You can write it as a statement (a) or as if you were speaking to the object in nature (b).  
(a) The flower listens to the wind blow.  
(b) Sun, listen to the messages of the clouds.

## Simile, Metaphor, or Personification?

Identify the following sentences as similes, metaphors, or personifications

1. He is like a monster when he plays sports. \_\_\_\_\_
2. He is a monster when he plays sports. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Paying bills is like having your teeth pulled. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The moon was a silver ship sailing through the sea. \_\_\_\_\_
5. She swims like a fish. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The water opened its arms and invited them in. \_\_\_\_\_
7. My brother is a clown. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The rain kissed my face as it fell. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The strawberries were yelling, "Eat me first!" \_\_\_\_\_

## Alliteration

Bertha Bartholomew bites big bubbles.  
Clever Clifford clumsily closed the closet clasps.  
Drew Driscoll drew a drawing of dreaded Dracula.  
Floyd Fingle flipped flat flapjacks.  
Greta Gruber grabbed a group of green grapes.  
Hattie Henderson hated happy healthy hippos.  
Julie Jackson juggled the juicy, jiggly jello.  
Karl Kessler kept the ketchup in the kitchen.  
Lila Ledbetter lugged a lot of little lemons lazily.  
Milton Mallard mailed a mangled mango to Montana.  
Norris Newton never needed new noodles.  
Patsy planted and plucked plain, plump plums.  
Randy Rathmore wrapped a rather rare red rabbit.  
Shelley Sherman shivered in a sheer, short shirt.  
Tina Talbot talked to two, tall, talented tenors.  
Walter Whipply warily warned the weary warrior.  
Yolanda Yvonne Yarger yodeled up yonder yesterday.  
Zigmund Zane zig-zagged through the zany zoo to find zebras.



# Symbolism

Symbolism is using one thing (a symbol) to stand for or represent something else. A symbol can be anything that stands for something else. Symbols are everywhere!!! Symbols can represent feelings, math, countries, religions, people, sports, or words. Authors use symbols to represent ideas in their writing.

Some Common Symbols:



Draw 5 symbols including what the symbols represent.

Symbols in writing...

She never spoke as she slid across the room. Her eyes narrowed as she stepped pass the dinner table. No one dared to look her in the eyes now. The crowded room parted to allow the woman in red to pass by. The whole room grew quiet. The only sound was her red dress swishing as a warning to those in her path.

What might the color red symbolize in this example: \_\_\_\_\_

The air grew cold as the black night set in. The young man began to panic. He must stay warm some how. As he looked through the snow covered hills he began to understand... there was no escape. As this thought became clear the shadow of night surrounded him into a deep sleep.

What might the "shadow of night" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

# Hyperbole

(hi per bowl eee)

Hyperbole is intentionally exaggerated figures of speech used to emphasize a point or add excitement or humor. Examples of hyperbole can occur in similes and metaphors.

Examples:

1. He was so tired that he could have slept for a month.
2. The water was a million feet deep.
3. I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.
4. She was as slow as a sloth on a hot day.



Write 1 hyperbole sentences of your own for each item listed.

(sun) \_\_\_\_\_

(school) \_\_\_\_\_

(car) \_\_\_\_\_

(cheetah) \_\_\_\_\_

(Make one of your own) \_\_\_\_\_

# Imagery

Imagery is writing that appeals to the 5 senses (sight, touch, taste, smell, sound) to help create mental pictures.

"The children were nestled, all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads."

"The salty, thick air was filled with sinister, rumbling clouds as the storm approached."

Write 3-5 sentences that use the 5 senses to create a mental picture. Write the sense above the words you use.



## Idioms

**To stick your neck out** is to say or do something that is bold and a bit dangerous. A similar idiom that is used for slightly more dangerous situations is to "go out on a limb." In both idioms, the idea is that you put yourself in a vulnerable position.

**To break the ice** is to be the first one to say or do something, with the expectation that others will then follow. Another idiom that means something similar is "get the ball rolling."

**To get long in the tooth** means to get old. The expression was originally used when referring to horses since gums recede with age. So the longer the teeth a horse has, the older it is said to be.

**To have a chip on one's shoulder** is usually an expression to describe a person who acts, as you say, rudely or aggressively, but also in a manner that could be described as "aggressively defensive." The person seems always ready for a fight.

Directions: Write the meanings of these frequently used idioms:

1. going bananas \_\_\_\_\_

2. see eye to eye \_\_\_\_\_

3. under the weather \_\_\_\_\_

4. stuffed to the gills \_\_\_\_\_

5. just what the doctor ordered \_\_\_\_\_

6. born yesterday \_\_\_\_\_

7. cat has your tongue \_\_\_\_\_

8. sells like hotcakes \_\_\_\_\_

9. back to the wall \_\_\_\_\_

## Fishing for Figurative Language

### Directions:

As you read circle the examples of figurative language in the following colors  
simile = Purple                      metaphor = Green                      hyperbole = Red  
personification = Pink              onomatopoeia = Orange              alliteration = Yellow

As the sun peaked over the horizon, Andy Allen and Amy Atwater were already headed for the lake. Today was the Lucky Lure fishing tournament, and they wanted to be at their favorite spot early. As their truck rounded the last bend in the road, they spotted the lake. The aqua-blue water was a shiny mirror. What a perfect day for fishing!

As quick as a wink, Andy launched the boat in the water while Amy sorted the rods and reels. Andy gunned the engine and the boat shot off like a rocket. But as they came around the corner, Andy and Amy spied another boat at their favorite fishing spot! Their hearts dropped like rocks, and they knew they were in a pickle.

“Where will we fish?” Andy asked Amy.

“Sit tight,” Amy replied. “I think I may have another trick up my sleeve.” Amy directed Andy to a small cove on the other side of the lake. Lily pads floated like saucers on the water and birds chirped cheerfully all around them. Andy picked up his rod and cast it toward the moss-covered bank. Kerplunk! The lure splashed into the water. Before Andy had time to blink, his line began to zing. He had a fish!

“Amy!” hollered Andy excitedly. “Lend me a hand and grab the net!” Andy reeled and reeled but the fish fought him tooth and nail. Andy began sweating bullets. He knew the tournament victory would depend on this catch.

“Andy, you lucky dog,” exclaimed Amy. “You caught a whale of a fish! You’re sure to win the tournament now.”

“But you helped me catch him,” replied Andy. “We’ll share the prize.” Amy and Andy zoomed back to the dock to weigh their fish and claim the prize: a Lucky Lure fishing hat and a T-shirt.

“Wow! What a wonderful day,” said Andy as they drove home. “But I’m exhausted!”

“Me too,” Amy said with a yawn. “But let’s come back tomorrow and see if there are any more whales in that cove!”

