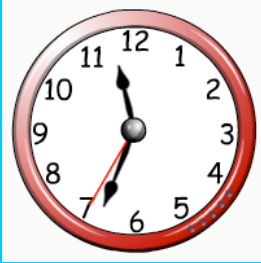


Figurative Language

Figurative language is made up of all the tools that a poet uses to create a special effect or feeling.

It includes metaphor, simile, alliteration, personification, irony, idioms, hyperbole, and onomatopoeia.



Similes

Definition: Simile is when you compare two nouns (person, places, or things) that are unlike, with "like" or "as".



My love is **LIKE** a **red, red** rose.

<http://www.kidsonthenet.org.uk/dragonsville/simile1.htm>

Simile

Definition: Simile is when you compare two nouns (persons, places or things) that are unlike, with "like" or "as."

Example

"The water is like the sun."

"The water is like the sun" is an example of simile because water and the sun have little in common, and yet they're being compared to one another. The "is" is also part of what makes this stanza an example of simile.



*"The rain falls like the sun,
rising upon the mountains."*

Similes

Similes are comparisons that show how two things that are not alike in most ways are similar in one important way. Similes are a way to describe something. Authors use them to make their writing more interesting or entertaining.

Similes use the words “as” or “like” to make the connection between the two things that are being compared.

Examples:

1. Playing chess with Ashley is **like** trying to outsmart a computer.

The activity “playing chess with Ashley” is being compared to “trying to outsmart a computer.” The point is that Ashley can think in a powerful manner that resembles the way a computer operates, not that she is like a computer in any other way.



2. His temper was **as** explosive **as** a volcano.

Underline the word or phrase that is being described by each simile. Put parentheses around the word or phrase it is being compared to. The first three have been done for you.

1. Mary frowned and said, “I believe that taking drugs is like (playing with fire).”
2. I walked along the beach and listened to the ocean. My sadness was as unending as the (waves).
3. Don’t tell Mother that her cookies taste like (lumps of sand).
4. Sam waited impatiently for his older brother to calm down. “Bill, I think you are acting like a baby,” he said.
5. Karen was offended when I said that she was as flaky as a snowstorm.
6. Be careful when you go out. The sidewalk is as slippery as greased glass.
7. I’m not comfortable about this situation. I feel like a bug sitting under a magnifying glass.
8. I hoped our play would be a success and last for many performances. However, I guess it will last as long as a balloon in a roomful of kittens.
9. I really like Patty. Her heart is as soft as a feather pillow.
10. Cheryl’s smile is as sweet as a lullaby.

Writers use similes to compare things. Similes usually use the words "like" or "as".

For example:

His eyes were as blue as the sky.

His eyes were blue like the sky.

Fill in the blanks below to complete the similes.

The bird was as _____ as a _____.

My mom is as _____ as a _____.

The pillow was like a _____.

My puppy is like a _____.

Practice: Use the word below and write a simile. Compare it to something that relates and conveys a picture in the reader's mind.

Practice: Use the word below and write a simile. Compare it to something that relates and conveys a picture in the reader's mind.

1. hair _____

2. clouds _____

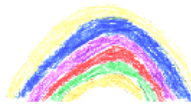
3. car _____

4. grass _____

5. rain _____

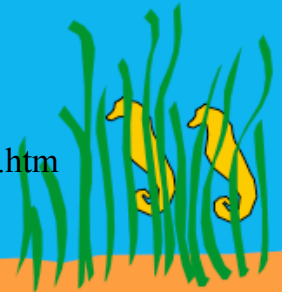
Metaphors

Definition: Metaphor is when you use two things and compare or contrast them to one another. Unlike simile, you don't use "like" or "as" in the comparison.



Examples
I am a rainbow

<http://www.kidsonthenet.org.uk/dragonsville/metaphor1.htm>



MY LIFE IS A DREAM

M
S My life is a dream,
like a tiger waking
up from her deep sleep.

S My life is like
a dream,
it's all

up

to

me,

M the trees

are

purple

the

stars

talk

away

the night,

the

moaning moon

lights

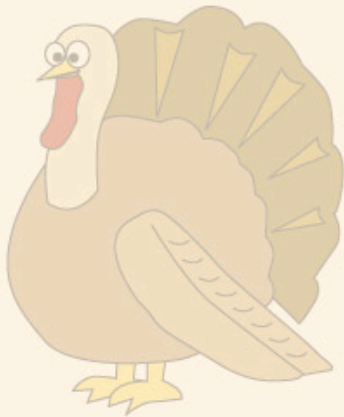
up the sky.

You, Turkey!

She got her feathers ruffled the other day.

He is one hen-pecked husband!

Metaphors!



Metaphor Meanings

Name: _____

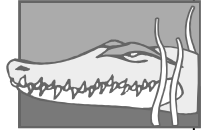


Figurative language includes special forms that writers use to help readers make a strong connection to their words. A **metaphor** is one kind of figurative language. It makes a direct comparison of two unlike things. You can tell the difference between a metaphor and a simile because a simile uses the words "like" or "as", and a metaphor does not. Metaphors often use a form of the verb "to be". The verb can be in the past tense (was, were), the present tense (am, is, are), or future tense (will be).



All of the sentences below use metaphors. Explain what each one means.

1. The teeth of the crocodile are little white knives.



_____ The crocodile's teeth are very sharp. _____

2. My life is a dream come true!

3. The bird fired a white missile, which exploded on my windshield.

4. The crab was a dancing pair of scissors, clicking across the sand.

5. Her long hair is an ocean of waves.

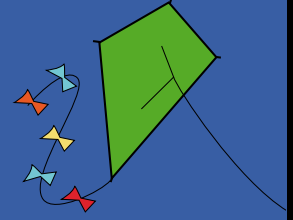
6. The music of her laughter filled the room.

7. A book is a key that unlocks imagination in your mind.

8. Her diary was her best friend, guarding her secrets quietly.



Which Is It? Metaphor or Simile?



Below are sentences that contain a metaphor or a simile. In the blank provided, identify which is used in each sentence by writing *metaphor* or *simile*.

- 1) The sky was the color of the calm Pacific thousands of miles from land. _____
- 2) I am as hungry as a bear recently awakened from hibernation. _____
- 3) She was a kite, floating above the confusion around her. _____
- 4) Like a silent thief, the dog crept into the kitchen. _____
- 5) My thoughts fluttered from subject to subject like a butterfly visiting flowers in a field. _____
- 6) The dark, cold and silent room was a tomb. _____
- 7) My noisy sister was like a buzzing fly. _____
- 8) Soft and warm, the bed was an inviting oasis. _____
- 9) The child's tears were cold raindrops from a tiny cloud. _____
- 10) The sunshine was like a warm blanket on a cold and rainy night. _____

E.Q. What is
Onomatopoeia?

Onomatopoeia is the use of words that sound like the noises they describe.

<http://www.worsleyschool.net/socialarts/onomato/poeia.html>



The **ONOMATOPOEIA**

Now, what is an *ONOMATOPOEIA*?

Basically, an *onomatopoeia* is a word which imitates a noise or action.

For example, this sentence:

"The fly buzzed past", the word *"buzzed"* is a word which sounds like a fly flying. So it is an example of an **onomatopoeia**.

Another example of the onomatopoeia is this: *"He clattered and clanged as he washed the dishes"*, where *"clattered"* and *"clanged"* are **onomatopoeic** since they imitate the actual sounds.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/magickey/adventures/soundmonster_game.shtml

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is the use of words whose sounds make you think of their meanings. For example; buzz, thump, pop.

Activity One:

Brainstorm as a class some words that sound like their meaning.

Activity Two:

Write sentences using some of our brainstorm words.

1.

2.

3.

Activity Three:

Some comic strips use onomatopoeia. Write and illustrate a short comic strip.

PERSONIFICATION

E.Q. What is personification?

Personification is a type of figurative language in which poets give an animal, object, or idea human qualities, such as the ability to hear, feel, talk, and make decisions.

Examples: *The camera loves me!*

My computer hates me!

The sunflowers nodded their yellow heads.

The swimming pool invited me to jump in.



Using Personification

Sometimes a writer will give human characteristics to nonhuman things. Objects, ideas, places, or animals may be given human qualities. They may perform human actions. This kind of language is called **personification**. Personification helps a writer to create an exciting picture in the reader's mind.

Examples:

The clothes on the line danced in the wind.
The flames ate hungrily at the wood.



Read each example of personification below. Rewrite each sentence so that its meaning is the same, but do not use personification.

1. The sun played a game of hide-and-seek, using the clouds as a cover.

2. The old tree moaned with pain in the cold wind.

3. The blanket gave out a dusty cough as it was shaken open.

4. The wood refused to cooperate when Tiblo tried to light the campfire.



Rewrite each sentence so that its meaning is the same, but use personification to make it more interesting.

5. It was sunny out.

6. There was a small cave among the rocks.



Poems



The sky is low

THE sky is low, the clouds are mean,
A travelling flake of snow
Across a barn or through a rut
Debates if it will go.

A narrow wind complains all day
How some one treated him;
Nature, like us, is sometimes caught
Without her diadem.

Emily Dickinson

Two Sunflowers Move in the Yellow Room.

"Ah, William, we're weary of weather,"
said the sunflowers, shining with dew.
"Our traveling habits have tired us.
Can you give us a room with a view?"

They arranged themselves at the window
and counted the steps of the sun,
and they both took root in the carpet
where the topaz tortoises run.

William Blake
(1757-1827)

Personification Worksheet

Name _____

Directions: Underline the idea, object, animal being personified and circle what they're doing that makes it an example of personification.

1. The sun danced across the sky on the hot summer day.

2. The big full moon guided me through the forest.

3. The mountain listened to the rumbles beneath its surface.

4. As the rain pounded to the ground, everyone ran for cover.

5. The old man sat at the edge of the sea as the waves crashed on the shore.

6. The old car groaned as it made its way down the long open road.

7. The wind whispered lonely sounds as it blew through the old creaky windows.

8. The leaves raced to the ground as the children ran across the playground.

9. The pencil moaned as the boy turned the handle on the pencil sharpener.

10. The tornado pranced across the field and wiped away everything in its path.

ALLITERATION

E.Q. : Why do authors use alliteration?

E.Q. : What is alliteration?

Alliteration is the repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginnings of several words of a line of poetry or a sentence.

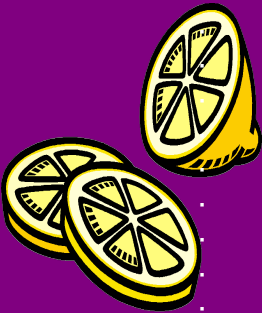
Examples: — Peter Piper picked (a) peck (of) pickled peppers.



She sells seashells (by the) sea shore.

Examples:

- Angela Abigail Applewhite ate anchovies and artichokes.
- Bertha Bartholomew blew big, blue bubbles.
- Clever Clifford Cutter clumsily closed the closet clasps.
- Dwayne Dwiddle drew a drawing of dreaded Dracula.
- Elmer Elwood eluded elven elderly elephants.
- Floyd Flingle flipped flat flapjacks.
- Greta Gruber grabbed a group of green grapes.
- Hattie Henderson hated happy healthy hippos.
- Ida Ivy identified the ivory iris.
- Julie Jackson juggled the juicy, jiggly jello.
- Karl Kessler kept the ketchup in the kitchen.
- Lila Ledbetter lugged a lot of little lemons.
- Milton Mallard mailed a mangled mango.
- Norris Newton never needed new noodles.
- Patsy planter plucked plump, purple, plastic plums.
- Quinella Quist quite quickly quelled the quarreling quartet.
- Randy Rathbone wrapped a rather rare red rabbit.
- Shelly Sherman shivered in a sheer, short, shirt.
- Trina Tweety tripped two twittering twins under a twiggy tree.
- Uri Udall usually used his unique, unusual unicycle.
- Vicky Vinc viewd a very valuable vase.
- Walter Whipple warily warned the weary warrior.
- Xerxes Xenon expected to xerox extra x-rays.
- Yolana Yvonne Yarger yodeled up yonder yesterday.
- Zigmund Zane zig-zagged through the zany zoo zone.



Alliteration

Definition: When two or more words in a poem begin with the same letter or sound.

Example

Dressy Daffodils



"Dressy daffodils" is an example of alliteration because both the words begin with "D." Alliteration is like rhyming, but with alliteration the rhyming comes at the front of the words instead of the end.



Rabbits Running Over Roses

"Rabbits running over roses" is another example of Alliteration because rabbits, running, and roses all begin with the same letter and sound the same.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/starship/english/games/space_spins/small_no_sound/standard.shtml

Alliteration

Directions: create your own alliteration by choosing one letter and writing a simple sentence of at least 5 words.

HYPERBOLE



E.Q. : What is hyperbole?

Hyperbole is usually a group of words which make an exaggeration which is not meant to be taken seriously.

Examples: I could sleep forever.
This book weights a ton.

<http://www.sd35.bc.ca/lm/archive/div8samplehyperbole.htm>

The **HYPERBOLE**

Now, what is the *hyperbole*?

Basically, the *hyperbole* is usually a GROUP OF WORDS which make an exaggeration which is not meant to be taken seriously.

Like [idioms](#) **HYPERBOLES** are often thought of as "**sayings**".

For example, this sentence:

"It rained cats and dogs all day," basically means that it rained a lot all day. It could not REALLY rain "cats and dogs". This is an exaggeration. It is an **hyperbole**.

Another example of an hyperbole is this: *"He snapped my head off"*, meaning: *"He growled at me"* or *"He told me off"*.



Examples:

My teacher is so old...

- “they’ve already nailed the coffin shut.”
- “she gets a seniors discount at the nursing home!”
- “her wrinkles weigh more than she does!”
- “she showed us a yearbook from 1500 B.C.!”
- “she considers Shakespeare to be a ‘new-fangled modern art!’”
- “she personally knew Shakespeare!”
- “she remembers the tragedy when the dinosaurs died!”
- “she’s mentioned in the Old Testament.”
- “she can’t even remember her own name!”
- “she taught cave men to start a fire.”
- “she edited the bible for mistakes!”
- “she claims that she invented the question mark!”
- “we looked up the word ‘ancient’, and there was full definition with her name and a big picture of her.”
- “she knows how to speak cave-man language!”



Name: _____

Hyperbole

A hyperbole is an exaggerated statement that is not meant to be taken literally.

example: **Keith has a ton of homework tonight.**

Of course, if Keith put his homework on a scale and weighed it, it wouldn't really weigh a ton (2,000 pounds). This sentence is an exaggeration that shows he has lots of homework.



Tell whether each sentence uses hyperbole.

Write hyperbole or not hyperbole on each line.

- _____ I have a million things to do today.
- _____ Harold ate a large sandwich for lunch.
- _____ Mary will be back in just a second.
- _____ Ken will be back in about an hour.
- _____ When Jamie told us the joke, we nearly died laughing.
- _____ My grandmother will turn 67 years old tomorrow.
- _____ My mother is always working.
- _____ Notre Dame has a terrific football team this year.

Rewrite each sentence. Add hyperbole to your new sentence.

9. Uncle Larry is very smart.

10. My friend is a fast runner.

Irony

Irony is the technique that uses the unexpected. When the opposite of what is expected is used, it is called ironic.

Common Examples of Irony

Let us analyze some interesting examples of irony from our daily life:

- I posted a video on YouTube about how boring and useless YouTube is.
- The name of Britain's biggest dog was "Tiny".
- You laugh at a person who slipped stepping on a banana peel and the next thing you know, you slipped too.
- The butter is as soft as a marble piece.
- "Oh great! Now you have broken my new camera."