

# Figurative Language

Figuring it Out

# Figurative and Literal Language

**Literally:** words function exactly as defined

The car is blue.

He caught the football.

**Figuratively:** figure out what it means

I've got your back.

You're a doll.

^ **Figures of Speech**

# Simile

Comparison of two things using “like” or “as.”

## Examples

The metal twisted **like** a ribbon.

She is **as** sweet **as** candy.

# Important!

Using “like” or “as” doesn’t make a simile.

A **comparison** must be made.

**Not a Simile:** *I like pizza.*

**Simile:** *The moon is like a pizza.*

# Metaphor

Two things are compared **without** using “*like*” or “*as*.”

## Examples

All the world **is** a stage.

Men **are** dogs.

She has a stone heart.

# Personification

Giving human traits to objects or ideas.

## Examples

The sunlight danced.

Water on the lake shivers.

The streets are calling me.

# Hyperbole

Exaggerating to show strong feeling or effect.

## Examples

I will love you forever.

My house is a million miles from here.

She'd kill me.

# Understatement

Expression with less strength than expected.

**The opposite of hyperbole.**

I'll be there in one second.

This won't hurt a bit.



# Quiz

**On a separate sheet of paper...**

1. I will put an example of figurative language on the board.
2. You will write whether it is an **simile**, **metaphor**, **personification**, **hyperbole**, or **understatement**.
3. You **can** use your notes.

**1**

He drew a line as straight as an arrow.

# 2

Knowledge is a kingdom and all who learn are kings and queens.

**3**

Can I see you for a second?

4

The sun was beating down on me.

**5**

A flag wags like a fishhook there in the sky.

# 6

I'd rather take baths  
with a man-eating shark,  
or wrestle a lion  
alone in the dark,  
eat spinach and liver,  
pet ten porcupines,  
than tackle the homework,  
my teacher assigns.

# 7

Ravenous and savage  
from its long  
polar journey,

the North Wind

is searching  
for food—



# 8

The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.

9

Can I have one of your chips?

# 10

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear  
in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise

# Answers

1. Simile
2. Metaphor
3. Understatement
4. Personification
5. Simile
6. Hyperbole
7. Personification
8. Metaphor
9. Understatement
10. Metaphor