

Literal language refers to the true meaning of words.

Figurative language refers to words and phrases that **go beyond** their literal meaning.

Figurative Language Types	Figurative	Literal
Simile or Metaphor - compares two unlike things.	The cheetah is as fast as the wind .	The cheetah runs very fast .
Hyperbole - exaggerates the truth.	Marcelino could eat a horse .	Marcelino is very hungry .
Personification - gives human traits to an animal or object.	The stars dance playfully in the night sky.	That stars are blinking on and off .

CFU

Which of the following sentences uses simile or metaphor? Explain.

A The fog is a sneaky cat. **B The fog moves in very slowly.**

Which of the following sentences uses hyperbole? Explain.

A We have many things to do today. **B We have a million things to do today.**

Which of the following sentences uses personification? Explain.

A The alarm clock yelled at me this morning.

B The alarm clock was loud this morning.

What is the difference between literal and figurative language?

1. Read the text, noting the underlined figurative language.
2. Identify the figurative language type. (box)
3. Determine the meaning of the figurative language. (box or write)

excerpt from **Daffodils** *By William Wordsworth*

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

1. Why type of figurative language is “lonely as a cloud”?

- A It exaggerates the person's loneliness. (hyperbole)
- B It gives human traits to the clouds. (personification)
- C It compares loneliness to a cloud. (simile or metaphor)

2. Why did the author use the phrase “lonely as a cloud” ?

- A To tell the reader he wishes he had company during his travels.
- B To tell the reader that the clouds float over the hilltops.
- C To tell the reader he travels alone over the vales and hills.

3. What type of figurative language is “dancing”?

- A It exaggerates how well the flowers dance. (hyperbole)
- B It gives human traits to flowers. (personification)
- C It compares the flowers to the breeze. (simile or metaphor)

4. Why did the author use the phrase “dancing in the breeze”?

- A To tell the reader how the flowers move with the breeze.
- B To tell the reader that the flowers need the breeze to dance.
- C To tell the reader that the flowers couldn't move without the breeze.

1. Read the text, noting the underlined figurative language.
2. Identify the figurative language type. (box)
3. Determine the meaning of the figurative language. (box or write)

Excerpt from **My Bed is a Boat** by RL Stevenson

¹My bed is like a little boat;

²Nurse helps me in when I embark;

³She girds me in my sailor's coat

⁴And starts me in the dark.

⁵At night, I go on board and say

⁶Good-night to all my friends on shore;

⁷I shut my eyes and sail away

⁸And see and hear no more.

5. What type of figurative language is found in lines 1?

- A** It exaggerates the size of the bed. (hyperbole)
- B** It gives the human trait of sailor to the bed. (personification)
- C** It compares the bed to a boat. (simile or metaphor)

6. Why did Stevenson write the figurative language of the poem?

- A** To tell the reader how sleeping is like sailing into the dark.
- B** To tell the reader how sailors are always saying goodbye.
- C** To tell the reader how every sailor needs a nurse to help him.

Skill Closure

1. Read the text, noting the underlined figurative language.
2. Identify the figurative language type. (box)
3. Determine the meaning of the figurative language. (box or write)

excerpt from **A Red, Red Rose**

by Robert Burns

O my luve's like a red, red rose,

That's newly sprung in June;

O my luve's like the melodie

That's sweetly played in tune.

1. Why type of figurative language is “luve’s like a red rose”?

- A** It gives human traits to love. (personification)
- B** It compares love to a red rose. (simile or metaphor)
- C** It exaggerates the color of love. (hyperbole)

2. Describe what the use of the phrase “My luve’s like a melodie” adds to the reader’s understanding.

Concept Closure



Speaking

Corey thinks that the line “That’s newly sprung in June,” is an example of figurative language in the poem A Red, Red Rose. Is Corey correct or incorrect? Explain your answer.

Summary Closure

What did you learn today about determining the figurative meaning of words and phrases?

Word Bank

figurative
determine
non-literal
context clues

Read the text. Note the underlined figurative language.
Determine the meaning of the figurative language. (box or write)

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

by Washington Irving

Ichabod rode with short stirrups, which brought his knees nearly up to the pommel₁ of the saddle; his sharp elbows stuck out like grasshoppers; he carried his whip perpendicularly in his hand, like a sceptre, and as his horse jogged on, the motion of his arms was not unlike the flapping of a pair of wings. A small wool hat rested on the top of his nose, for so his scanty strip of forehead might be called, and the skirts of his black coat fluttered out almost to the horse's tail.

1. When the author writes “**carried his whip perpendicularly in his hand, like a sceptre**” he means:

- A Ichabod uses his whip to make the horse go faster.
- B Ichabod holds his whip in the air like royalty.
- C Ichabod swings the whip in the air.

2. Describe what the use of the phrase “**his sharp elbows stuck out like grasshoppers**” adds to the reader's understanding. (*answers may vary*)



Read the text. Note the underlined figurative language.
Determine the meaning of the figurative language. (box or write)

Excerpt from **Boats Sail on the Rivers**
by Christina Rossetti

¹Boats sail on the rivers,
²And ships sail on the seas;
³But clouds that sail across the sky
⁴Are prettier far than these.
⁵There are bridges on the rivers,
⁶As pretty as you please;
⁷But the bow that bridges heaven,
⁸And overtops the trees,
⁹And builds a road from earth to sky,
¹⁰Is prettier far than these.

3. When the author writes “but clouds that sail across the sky” she means:

- A Clouds have a shape like a white sail.
- B Clouds make the sky seem like body of water.
- C The clouds move through the sky just like boats on the rivers and ships on the seas.

4. Describe what the use of the phrase “and builds a road from earth to sky” adds to the reader’s understanding



Listening

Listen to the text read aloud. Determine the meaning for the figurative language used. Use context clues.

Figurative Language	Meaning
1 green oasis	
2 the leaves telling them	
3 as big as the ocean	
4 choir of ducks and geese	
5 curled like a snake	
6 tall hill that crowned the park	
7 trickled like tears	
8 see the whole world	
9 flowed like a ribbon	
10 like ants	
11 rivers of dust	
12 pioneers exploring	



Reading

Read the passage. Insert the figurative language where it fits best. Reread the passage.

musicians

never-ending tick

whisper

like a train

whistle

like kids

all ambulance sirens

crunch

a symphony of music

The forest is a . Birds chatter

on the playground. Leaves

to each other about the weather. Footsteps on the

dry ground mimic the of potato chips. At night, the

owl hoots like a train . The wolf howls louder than

. The bear growls with a low rumble

going down the tracks. The crickets chirp like the

of a clock. The animals are

in nature's orchestra. Listen!

Read the text. Note the underlined> figurative language. Determine the meaning of the figurative language. (box or write)

What Am I?

by Anonymous

¹I'm bigger than the entire earth
²More powerful than the sea
³Though a million, billion have tried
⁴Not one could ever stop me.
⁵I control each person with my hand
⁶and hold up fleets of ships.
⁷I can make them bend to my will
⁸with one word from my lips.
⁹I'm the greatest power in the world
¹⁰in this entire nation.
¹¹No one should ever try to stop
¹²a child's imagination.

1. Which phrases in this poem exaggerate how big or strong something is?

2. Answer the question: What am I?



Writing

Write a sentence using figurative language for each picture. Read the sentences.



beach cleaning



boy sailing boat
