

Types of Figurative Language

Writers use figurative language to produce images in readers' minds and to express ideas in fresh, vivid, and imaginative ways.

		Example
Simile	<i>a comparison of two things using like or as</i>	<i>The paparazzi circled like vultures above a tottering camel.</i>
Metaphor	<i>an <u>implied</u> comparison is made between two unlike things (does not use like or as)</i>	<i>The assignment was a breeze. (implies that the assignment was not difficult.)</i>
Hyperbole	<i>an exaggeration -overstatement</i>	<i>I am trying to solve a million issues this week.</i>
Idiom	<i>an expression having a special meaning different from the usual meanings of the words</i>	<i>After being reelected, the governor felt on top of the world.</i>
Personification	<i>giving human characteristics to an animal, an object, or a concept.</i>	<i>The climbing rope laughed at my weak efforts.</i>
Imagery	<i>language that appeals to the senses-creates a picture in the reader's mind.</i>	<i>The music coursed through us, shaking our bodies as if it came from within us.</i>
Allusions	<i>reference is made to another text, event, person or place.</i>	<i>The rise in poverty will unlock the Pandora's box of crimes. "Pandora's box" is an allusion to Greek mythology.</i>