

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.

Types of Figurative Language

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.

My example:

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.

My example:

PERSONIFICATION IS GIVING HUMAN QUALITIES, FEELINGS, ACTIONS, OR CHARACTERISTICS TO INANIMATE (NOT LIVING) OBJECTS.

Example: The house stared at me with looming eyes. The verb, stared, is a human action. A house is a non-living object. Therefore, we have a good example of personification.

Example: The ancient car groaned into first gear. The verb, _____, is a human action. A _____ is a non-living thing.

My example:

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. The first letter, p, is a consonant. Its sound is repeated many times.

My example:

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!

My example:

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

Example: The dove symbolizes peace.

My example:

HYPERBOLE IS INTENTIONALLY EXAGGERATED FIGURES OF SPEECH.

Example: It was raining cats and dogs.

My example:

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.

My example:

Idioms An expression that means something other than the literal meanings of its individual words.

My example: