Figurative Language Worksheets

Personification - Metaphor - Hyperbole - Simile - Idioms

Name: ________________________________

Date: ________________

Period: _____
Figurative Language Worksheets

Personification – Metaphor - Hyperbole – Simile - Idioms

Name: _______________________

Date: __________

Period: ____
### Figurative Language – Define It

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figurative Language</th>
<th>Personification</th>
<th>Simile</th>
<th>Hyperbole</th>
<th>Metaphor</th>
<th>Idiom</th>
<th>Literal Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Figurative language that uses the words “like” or “as” to compare two things</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Speech or writing that departs from literal meaning in order to achieve a special effect</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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<td>Language that is plain and direct</td>
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<td>4.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Figurative language that just means what it means, even though it doesn’t make sense</td>
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<td>5.</td>
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<td>Figurative language that exaggerates</td>
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<td>6.</td>
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<td>Figurative language that gives human traits to a non-human thing</td>
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<td>7.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Figurative language that implies that two things being compared are the same thing, even though they are not</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. **Describe figurative language in your own words.**

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

9. **Two types of figurative language are very similar. What are they?**

________________ and ____________________.

10. **What is the opposite of figurative language?**

______________________________________________________________________________

11. **What type of figurative language is represented by this picture?**

_________________________
1. The traffic crawled along the congested highway.
2. The city slept well the night the murderer was captured.
3. Harry doesn’t believe men landed on the moon. He is a doubting Thomas.
4. The house was small.
5. She wore a lively outfit.
6. The sky of love opened the day she met Tom.
7. Her soft skin was like silk under his fingers.
8. The messy room seemed depressed.
9. I had a big breakfast, but by lunchtime I was starving!
10. The branches of the tree reached for the sky.
11. It takes my girlfriend an eternity to get dressed.
12. I have an axe to grind with my old enemy.
13. The man was so fat, he must have weighed a ton.
14. We baked in the hot sun.
15. I am sick to death of greedy politicians.
16. My two year old daughter is the apple of my eye.
17. My new shoes cost a fortune.
18. To wish the actors good luck, we said, “Break a leg!”
19. We must have walked a hundred miles today.
20. The hole was so deep; it went all the way to the other side of the world!
21. Stop beating around the bush! Get to the point!
22. I traveled to the moon and back to finish this assignment.
23. The country village opened its arms to the tourists.
24. The negative impact of the war was beyond measure.
25. The iPad is the greatest invention of all time.
26. This assignment is impossible.
27. The prisoner lived in a desert of loneliness and regret.
28. Thomas Edison believed that direct current was superior to alternating current.
29. The sight of civilization was like a tall drink of water to the wandering explorers.
30. It takes a million years for this class to end.
31. The Lakers played a good game.
32. The teacher talked until her tongue fell out.
33. You could have knocked me over with a feather.
34. I was so hungry I thought I was going to die.
35. After I ate the bad seafood, my stomach complained and moaned all day.
36. Dogs and cats have been enemies since the beginning of time.
37. Your teacher is an ocean of useful information.
38. The sparrow landed on the peak of the roof.
39. The Democratic Party has been in power for an eternity.
40. The messy house screamed for attention.
The neighborhood breathed a sigh of relief when the burglar was caught.
The old engine sprung to life, happy to be running again.
The door squeaked in protest every time someone opened it.
The customer complained until my ears bled.
Adolf Hitler is the most despised leader of all times.
The FBI is fortress of secrecy.
At precisely 6:30 am my alarm clock sprang to life.
Racism is a cancer on society.
A butterfly's life cycle consists of four parts: egg, larva, pupa and adult.
Ever since her lover left her, she had kept her heart in a drawer.
The rusty hinges groaned in pain.
His supermodel girlfriend was another trophy on his shelf.
In autumn, the trees undress themselves by throwing off their leaves.
Despair spread like wildfire in the impoverished ghetto.
Science is the systematic classification of experience.
The war gobbled up the lives of millions of innocent people.
Swallow your tears.
Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.
The long grass played in the wind.
The salesman had small eyes, little pinpoints in a puffy face.
He had a big round stomach and looked like a polar bear.
His sagging pants made him walk like an infant in diapers.
The mansion rose up to the trees like one of Tarzan’s haunts.
The tiger rolled back on his haunches, ready to pounce.
The elk’s antlers were locked together, as if welded.
Spring came, stretched and yawned.
The air became frosty, flirted with snow.
Fading memories are footprints in sand.
He is as skinny as a toothpick.
I didn’t know if the city would welcome him.
I sat still, like an owl.
The pigeons rose into the air, as if caught in a tornado.
The tails of woodpeckers help them climb and forage.
If I can’t buy that new game, I will die.
She has tons of money!
The salt air stung her eyes.
Oreo: Milk’s favorite cookie.
This assignment is without end!
If the shoe fits, wear it.
Their marriage started a new chapter in their lives.
Identify what type of figurative language is being used in each sentence. Justify your answer.  
(Some of the sentences have no figurative language at all, so stay on your toes!)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Type of language</th>
<th>Justify your answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The swans were graceful as ballerinas.</td>
<td>Simile</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas</td>
<td>Metaphor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The sun was shining with all his might.</td>
<td>Personification</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Don’t be scared of James. He’s all bark and no bite.</td>
<td>Idiom</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. The average distance from the moon to the Earth is 238,857 miles (384,392 kilometers).</td>
<td>Literal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. I am Super Samson / I’m super strong / I like to carry elephants / I do it all day long.</td>
<td>Hyperbole</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Now it’s time to write some sentences that use figurative language.

1. Hyperbole

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

2. Simile (like)

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

3. Simile (as)

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

4. Metaphor

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

5. Personification

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

6. Literal

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

7. Write an idiom that you know or make one up and describe what it means.

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

8. Combine two types in one sentence, like personification and simile.

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________
### Identify and Interpret

Identify the type of figurative language and rewrite the sentence in literal language.

1. My friends were just pulling my leg.
   - What type of language? Personification, Hyperbole, Simile, Metaphor, or Idiom?
   - Rewrite in literal language.

2. Your explanation is as clear as mud.
   - What type of language?
   - Rewrite in literal language.

3. The city opened its arms to the liberators.
   - What type of language?
   - Rewrite in literal language.

4. There is a bluebird in my heart that wants to get out.
   - What type of language?
   - Rewrite in literal language.

### Reflect

What, in your opinion, is the easiest type of figurative language to write? Why?

______________________________________________________________________________

What is the most difficult? ____________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Why is figurative language useful? ____________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
Evaluate this poem and write a paragraph that discusses these questions.

- What type of figurative language is being used? Justify your answer.
- What is the overall effect of the figurative language?
- Why do you think the author chose that type of figurative language?
- Would another type of figurative language have been as effective? Why or why not?

From *The Walrus and the Carpenter*  
By Lewis Carroll

The sun was shining on the sea,  
Shining with all his might:  
He did his very best to make  
The billows smooth and bright -  
And this was odd, because it was  
The middle of the night.
Evaluate this poem and write a paragraph that discusses these questions.

- What type of figurative language is being used? Justify your answer.
- What is the overall effect of the figurative language?
- Why do you think the author chose that type of figurative language?
- Would another type of figurative language have been as effective? Why or why not?

A Soldier
By Robert Lee Frost

He is that fallen lance that lies as hurled,
That lies unlifted now, come dew, come rust,
But still lies pointed as it ploughed the dust.
If we who sight along it round the world,
See nothing worthy to have been its mark,
It is because like men we look too near,
Forgetting that as fitted to the sphere,
Our missiles always make too short an arc.
They fall, they rip the grass, they intersect
The curve of earth, and striking, break their own;
They make us cringe for metal-point on stone.
But this we know, the obstacle that checked
And tripped the body, shot the spirit on
Further than target ever showed or shone.
Evaluate this poem and write a paragraph that discusses these questions.

- What type of figurative language is being used? Justify your answer.
- What is the overall effect of the figurative language?
- Why do you think the author chose that type of figurative language?
- Would another type of figurative language have been as effective? Why or why not?

Mowing
By Robert Lee Frost

There was never a sound beside the wood but one,
And that was my long scythe whispering to the ground.
What was it it whispered? I knew not well myself;
Perhaps it was something about the heat of the sun,
Something, perhaps, about the lack of sound,
And that was why it whispered and did not speak.
It was no dream of the gift of idle hours,
Or easy gold at the hand of fay or elf:
Anything more than the truth would have seemed too weak
To the earnest love that laid the swale in rows,
Not without feeble-pointed spikes of flowers
(Pale orchises), and scared a bright green snake.
The fact is the sweetest dream that labour knows.
My long scythe whispered and left the hay to make.
Analyze and Evaluate

Evaluate this poem and write a paragraph that discusses these questions.

- What type of figurative language is being used? Justify your answer.
- What is the overall effect of the figurative language?
- Why do you think the author chose that type of figurative language?
- Would another type of figurative language have been as effective? Why or why not?

My November Guest
By Robert Lee Frost

My Sorrow, when she's here with me,
Thinks these dark days of autumn rain
Are beautiful as days can be;
She loves the bare, the withered tree;
She walked the sodden pasture lane.

Her pleasure will not let me stay.
She talks and I am fain to list:
She's glad the birds are gone away,
She's glad her simple worsted gray
Is silver now with clinging mist.

The desolate, deserted trees,
The faded earth, the heavy sky,
The beauties she so truly sees,
She thinks I have no eye for these,
And vexes me for reason why.

Not yesterday I learned to know
The love of bare November days
Before the coming of the snow,
But it were vain to tell her so,
And they are better for her praise.
Analyze and Evaluate

Evaluate this poem and write a paragraph that discusses these questions.

• What type of figurative language is being used? Justify your answer.
• What is the overall effect of the figurative language?
• Why do you think the author chose that type of figurative language?
• Would another type of figurative language have been as effective? Why or why not?

To the Thawing Wind
By Robert Lee Frost

Come with rain. O loud Southwester!
Bring the singer, bring the nester;
Give the buried flower a dream;
make the settled snowbank steam;
Find the brown beneath the white;
But whate'er you do tonight,
bath my window, make it flow,
Melt it as the ice will go;
Melt the glass and leave the sticks
Like a hermit's crucifix;
Burst into my narrow stall;
Swing the picture on the wall;
Run the rattling pages o'er;
Scatter poems on the floor;
Turn the poet out of door.
Evaluate this poem and write a paragraph that discusses these questions.

- What type of figurative language is being used? Justify your answer.
- What is the overall effect of the figurative language?
- Why do you think the author chose that type of figurative language?
- Would another type of figurative language have been as effective? Why or why not?

My Shadow
By Robert Louis Stevenson

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow—
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india-rubber ball,
And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.
He stays so close beside me, he's a coward you can see;
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-head,
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.
Thank You!

Please take a moment to look at our Figurative Language vs. Literal Language PowerPoint presentation. This highly-rated presentation provides a quick and fun review of everything your students will need to know in order to complete these worksheets. It uses photography to teach students an elusive topic that often appears on standardized tests: “What is figurative language and why is it useful?”

http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Figurative-Language-vs-Literal-Language-PowerPoint-Presentation

Thanks!
Steven and Christine