Figurative Language

- simile
- assonance
- metaphor
- personification
- Alliteration
- onomatopoeia
Figurative Language

The opposite of literal language is figurative language. Figurative language is language that means more than what it says on the surface.

• It usually gives us a feeling about its subject.

• A writers tool

• It helps the reader to visualize (see) what the writer is thinking
  – It puts a picture in the readers mind
What is figurative language?

- Whenever you describe something by comparing it with something else, you are using figurative language.
Types of Figurative Language

- Simile
- Metaphor
- Personification
- Alliteration
- Assonance
- Consonance
- Repetition
- Onomatopoeia
- Hyperbole
- Imagery
- Idioms
Simile

a direct comparison between two unlike things
or
a way of describing something by comparing it to something else, usually using the words “like” or “as”
I am hungry as a horse.

You run like a rabbit.

She is happy as a clam.

He is sneaky as a snake.
Metaphor:

A way of describing something by comparing it to something else; implied comparison between two unlike things.
The road was a ribbon wrapped through the desert.

The clown was a feather floating away.
Personification

to give human characteristics
to something
that is not human
(i.e., animals, objects, or ideas)
The flowers **danced** in the wind.

The **friendly** gates **welcomed** us.

The hurricane’s winds are **yelling** while blowing outside my window.
Alliteration: repetition of the first consonant sound at the beginning of words
Alliteration (continued)

Alliteration: when the first sounds in words repeat.

Example

Peter Piper picked a pickled pepper.

We lurk late. We shoot straight.
Stan the strong surfer saved several swimmers on Saturday.

Tiny Tommy Thomson takes toy trucks to Timmy’s on Tuesday.

Click here to read more alliterations.
Assonance: The repetition of internal vowel sounds. Doesn't have to rhyme!!
Princess Kitty will kiss Timmy T. Tippers’s lips

The pain may drain Drake, but maybe the weight is fake.
Consonance

When **consonants** repeat in the middle or end of words.

**Vowels:** \(a, e, i, o, u\), and sometimes \(y\).

**Consonants:** all other letters.

*Please note that we will only focus on internal consonance on the test.*

**Examples**

Mammals named Sam are clammy.

Curse, bless me now! With fierce tears I prey.
Repetition

Repeating a word or words for effect.

Example

Nobody
No, nobody
Can make it out here alone.
Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.
Onomatopoeia: Words that are sounds
Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia: When a word’s pronunciation imitates its sound.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buzz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fizz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The firecracker made a loud **ka-boom**!

The ball went **swish** as it hit the net.

I knew the car was going to break down because it went **chug chug chug**…
Hyperbole

• An exaggerated statement used to heighten effect. It is not used to mislead the reader, but to emphasize a point.

Example: She’s said so on several million occasions.
Imagery

• Language that appeals to the senses. Descriptions of people or objects stated in terms of our senses.

• Sight
• Hearing
• Touch
• Taste
• Smell
Idioms

• An idiom or idiomatic expression refers to a construction of words or expression different from the ordinary meaning of the words.
  • The context can help you understand what an idiom means.

Example: "She has a bee in her bonnet," meaning "she is obsessed," cannot be literally translated into another language word for word.
Idioms (continued)

• An expression that carries a different meaning because of the context in which it is used
  – “slang” terms

Examples
“Up the creek without a paddle”
“On top of the world”
“Fingers crossed”
“Shake a leg” or “Break a leg”
“Put a lid on it”
“It’s raining cats and dogs”
Allusion

• A reference to a person, event, or place in history or in another well-known work of literature
  – The writer assumes will recognize the reference

Example

1. Someone being as reliable as George Washington or as reliable as Benedict Arnold
   • Washington was reliable, Arnold was not

2. To communicate the idea of self-sacrifice by referring to Jesus
   • Jesus' story portrays him dying on the cross in order to save mankind (Matthew 27:45-56)
Irony

• When a speaker intends something entirely different than what is said
  – Say it one way, but “secretly” mean it the opposite way

Example
Someone accomplishes something hard or is very successful and you say, “You’ve certainly made a mess of things.”

“It smells really good in here!” when referring to something that smells terrible.
Rhythm

When words are arranged in such a way that they make a pattern or beat.

Example
There once was a man from Peru,
Who dreamed of eating his shoe,
He awoke with a fright,
In the middle of the night,
And found that his dream had come true!

Hint: hum the words instead of saying them.
Rhyme

When words have the same end sound.
Happens at the beginning, end, or middle of lines.

Examples

Where
Fair
Air
Bear
Glare
Smart by Shel Silverstein

My dad gave me a one dollar bill
'Cause I'm his smartest son,
And I swapped it for two shiny quarters
'Cause two is more than one!

And then I took the quarters
And traded them to Lou
For three dimes -- I guess he don't know
That three is more than two!

Just then, along came old blind Bates
And just 'cause he can't see
He gave me four nickels for my three dimes,
And four is more than three!

And I took the nickels to Hiram Coombs
Down at the seed-feed store,
And the fool gave me five pennies for them,
And five is more than four!

And then I went and showed my dad,
And he got red in the cheeks
And closed his eyes and shook his head—
Too proud of me to speak!
Absolutely not! My mother said to me, When I asked her for a dog that was big as tree, He'll gobble all the food that we have in the house, Why don't you get a smaller pet like a hamster or a mouse.

But a mouse ain't quite large enough to get the job done right, He's got to be there by my side when my brother wants to fight!
The Couple

Lola took the bus one day
To see the sun go down
At the sea she saw it's face
In the water drown

Felt so bad for Mr. Sun
She thought she'd save his life
Took a boat out the next day
And then became his wife

But too bad for Mr. Sun
And his Missus too
For both of them I'm afraid to say
Drowned in the deep sea blue

But they'll arise tomorrow when
You'll see them at high noon
Runnin' 'cross the sky together
The bright sun and the moon.
Practice Quiz

I’ll put some lines of poetry on the board. Write down which techniques are used:

Alliteration, consonance, rhythm, rhyme, and onomatopoeia.

Some poems use more than one technique.
The cuckoo in our cuckoo clock was wedded to an octopus. She laid a single wooden egg and hatched a cuckoo-octopus.
They are building a house
half a block down
and I sit up here
with the shades down
listening to the sounds,
the hammers pounding in nails,
thack thack thack thack thack,
and then I hear birds,
and thack thack thack thack,
very little love is not so bad
or very little life
what counts
is waiting on walls
I was born for this
I was born to hustle roses down the avenues of the dead.
The whiskey on your breath
Could make a small boy dizzy;
But I hung on like death:
Such waltzing was not easy.
Homework! Oh, homework!
I hate you! You stink!
I wish I could wash you away in the sink.
Answers

1. Repetition, rhythm, rhyme, consonance
2. Onomatopoeia, assonance, repetition
3. Alliteration, repetition
4. Rhythm, rhyme
5. Repetition, rhyme, rhythm
Figurative Language Resources

- **Eye on Idioms** (Online PPT)
- **Paint by Idioms** (Game)
- **Alliteration or Simile?** (Quiz)
- **Similes and Metaphors** (PPT)
- **The Search for Similes, Metaphors, and Idioms** (PPT)
- **Alliteration** (PPT)
- **Onomatopoeia** (PPT)
- **Personification** (PPT)
- **Hyperbole** (PPT)
- **Idioms** (PPT)
- **Simile** (PPT)
Teaching Similes and Metaphors

- Alliteration Lesson Plan and Resources
  [http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/1allitera.htm](http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/1allitera.htm)
- Hyperbole- Lesson Plans and Resources
  [http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/10lesson.htm](http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/10lesson.htm)
- Idiom Lesson Plan
  [http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/6lesson.htm](http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/6lesson.htm)
- Imagery- Lesson Plans and Resources
  [http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/imagery2.htm](http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/imagery2.htm)
- Lesson Plan for Puns
  [http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/5lesson.htm](http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/5lesson.htm)
- Onomatopoeia- Lesson Plans and Resources
  [http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/9lesson.htm](http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/9lesson.htm)
- Personification Lesson Plans and Resources
  [http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/7lesson.htm](http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/7lesson.htm)
- Proverbs- Lesson Plans and Resources
  [http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/proverbs2.htm](http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/proverbs2.htm)