

Figurative Language

Whenever you describe something by comparing it with something else, you are using figurative language. Any language that goes beyond the literal meaning of words in order to furnish new effects or fresh insights into an idea or a subject. The most common figures of speech are simile, metaphor, and alliteration.

Imagery

Language that appeals to the senses. Descriptions of people or objects stated in terms of our senses. It often paints a picture in your mind when you read those words.

Simile

A figure of speech which involves a direct comparison between two unlike things, usually with the words **like** or **as**.

Example: The muscles on his brawny arms are strong as iron bands.

Metaphor

A figure of speech which involves an implied comparison between two relatively unlike things using a form of be. The comparison is not announced by like or as.

Example: The road was a ribbon of moonlight.

Alliteration

Repeated consonant sounds occurring at the beginning of words or within words. Alliteration is used to create melody, establish mood, call attention to important words, and point out similarities and contrasts.

Example: wide-eyed and wondering while we wait for others to waken.

Personification

A figure of speech which gives the qualities of a person to an animal, an object, or an idea.

Example: the huge tree fell with a creaking rending cry--the author is giving a tree human qualities.

Onomatopoeia

The use of words that mimic sounds. They appeal to our sense of hearing and they help bring a description to life. A string of syllables the author has made up to represent the way a sound really sounds.

Example: Caarackle!

Hyperbole

An exaggerated statement used to heighten effect. It is not used to mislead the reader, but to emphasize a point. Example: I've said that a million times.

Figurative Language Review Name: _____

Record the initial of the figurative language technique demonstrated.

Simile, Metaphor, Alliteration, Personification, Onomatopoeia, Hyperbole

1	He was as dead as a doorknob.
2	My car knew the path home by heart.
3	Nothing beats the sizzling smell of bacon.
4	The wind whipped wildly over the plains.
5	I'm sweating to death!
6	The goalkeeper was a brick wall, nothing could pass.
7	David whooshed down the hill.
8	John was out like a light as soon as his head hit the pillow.
9	The sun smiled down on us that day.
10	America is a melting pot; Canada, a mosaic.
11	Mother Nature groaned.
12	She sells seashells by the seashore.
13	This homework is going to take forever!
14	A bee buzzed over my head.
15	Her explanation was as clear as mud.
16	Sam savored the sweet smell of success.
17	He's got to be a thousand years old.
18	Life is a highway.
19	She was as light as a feather.
20	There's nothing better than a seat by the crackling fire.