

Name: _____

Date: _____

What Is Figurative Language?

Figurative language is a tool that authors use to help their readers visualize what is happening in a story or poem. Here are eight common types of figurative language.

Name	Definition	Example
simile	a comparison of two things that are not alike, using the words “like” or “as”	His smile was as bright as the sun.
metaphor	a comparison of two things that are not alike, using the words “is” or “are”	Kate is a cheetah when she runs.
idiom	a phrase with a figurative meaning that is different than its literal meaning	Stop beating around the bush and just tell me the bad news.
hyperbole	an exaggeration so dramatic that it is obviously not true	I’m so hungry, I could eat a hippo!
personification	giving human characteristics to something nonhuman	The wind whistled a tune.
alliteration	when a set of words uses the same sound or letters repeatedly	Gunther gave his grandpa some green grapes.
onomatopoeia	sound words	Fireworks boomed above.
imagery	the use of descriptive words that appeal to the five senses (sight, smell, taste, touch, sound)	The silky, soft sweater blanketed me in warmth.

Read the paragraph and look for examples of figurative language.

Grab some crayons and use the colors from the chart above to underline each example of figurative language that you find.

Thick, black smoke filled the air. The scent of burnt toast filled my nostrils and made my eyes water. I gasped for air like a fish out of water. In a panic, I slammed the kitchen door. It closed with a bang as I ran to get my mom. The walls in front of me swam and danced. I could tell I was getting lightheaded. I needed to get outside for fresh air! I shouted for my mom, but my voice was gravel. “What’s wrong, Willa?” I heard my mom say. “The toaster!” I shrieked. “It was stuck on the highest setting. I couldn’t turn the knob because it was a million degrees! And now my toast is burnt!” I started crying. Mom peeked in the kitchen. The smoke had cleared, and only the foul smell remained. “It’s really a blessing in disguise,” Mom said. “Now you can have pancakes for breakfast, instead of toast!”

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You try! Use figurative language to write your own sentences.

1. Write a simile comparing your best friend and ice cream.

2. Write a sentence that uses alliteration and your name.

3. List four words that are examples of onomatopoeia.

4. Write a sentence that uses imagery to appeal to your sense of taste.

5. In your own words, describe the meaning of this idiom: *Don't cry over spilt milk.*

6. Write a metaphor to compare someone's eyes and the sky.

7. Use hyperbole to describe how you feel about a chore.

8. Use personification to describe a mountain.
