

## Class Notes #99: Figurative Language

**Get this Look!** KWBAT identify and interpret examples of figurative language in a text.

Figurative language is language that communicates ideas beyond the ordinary or literal meaning of the words. Authors use figurative language to make unusual comparisons to describe something and also to enhance and draw attention to what they are saying. Common examples of figurative language include the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ : A figure of speech that compares two distinct things by using words such as like or as. For example, "That child is like a mouse."

\_\_\_\_\_ : A figure of speech that compares two distinct things without using a connective word. Unlike a simile, a metaphor does not contain the words \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. For example, "That child is a mouse"

\_\_\_\_\_ : A figure of speech in which human characteristics are used to describe anything nonhuman, from an abstract idea to a physical force to an inanimate object to a living organism. For example, Sylvia Plath's poem, "Mirror," personifies a mirror using the first person: "I Am silver and exact / I have no preconceptions."

\_\_\_\_\_ : An overstatement or deliberate exaggeration usually for comic or ironic effect. For example, "In LA you can't do anything unless you drive... The only way to get across the road is to be born there."

Watch and listen to the video clip of Mulan. Write down as many examples of figurative language as you can.



Simile
Metaphor
Personification
Hyperbole

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When interpreting figurative language, we have to make sure that we

- 1 point: Identify the type of figurative language being used. Identify the two objects being compared, what's being exaggerated, or the object being personified.
- 2 point: Explain the example in literal language.
- 3 point: Explain why the speaker or narrator uses the example of figurative language.

Look at Ms. Moses' example from *Speak*.

Page #	Type of Figurative Language	Quote
100	Metaphor	"We are reading <i>The Scarlett Letter</i> one sentence at a time, tearing it up and chewing on its bones."

- **1 point:** The type of figurative language that Melinda uses in this example is a metaphor because the Scarlet Letter is being compared to tearing and chewing on bones.
- **2 point:** The type of figurative language that Melinda uses in this example is a metaphor because the Scarlet Letter is being compared to tearing and chewing on bones. *When Melinda says this she means that her English class is breaking down or analyzing every single piece of text.*
- **\*3 point\*:** The type of figurative language that Melinda uses in this example is a metaphor because the Scarlet Letter is being compared to tearing and chewing on bones. When Melinda says this she means that her English class is breaking down or analyzing every single piece of text. *Melinda says this because she wants to show how much she dislikes analyzing The Scarlett Letter.*

## Classwork #99: Figurative Language

**Guided Practice:** Together we will, identify the type of figurative language in each example from below and create a 3-point response interpretation.

Page #	Type of Figurative Language	Quote
83		"The photo shoot is in a building cold enough to store ice. Heather looks like our Thanksgiving turkey wearing a blue bikini."

1. Write a 3-point interpretation of the figurative language example above.

- **1 point:** Identify the type of figurative language being used. Identify the two objects being compared, what's being exaggerated, or the object being personified.
- **2 point:** Explain the example in literal language.
- **3 point:** Explain why the speaker or narrator uses the example of figurative language.

**Independent Practice:** On your own, you will identify the type of figurative language in each example from below and create a 3-point response interpretation.

Page #	Type of Figurative Language	Quote
84		"It is sweet that he cares enough about algebra and his students to want to bring them together. He's like a grandfather who wants to fix up two young kids that he just knows would make a great couple."

2. Write a 3-point interpretation of the figurative language example above.

- **1 point:** Identify the type of figurative language being used. Identify the two objects being compared, what's being exaggerated, or the object being personified.

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- **2 point:** Explain the example in literal language.
  
- **3 point:** Explain why the speaker or narrator uses the example of figurative language.

Page #	Type of Figurative Language	Quote
86-87		<p>"My guidance counselor calls Mom at the store to pave the way for my report card. Must remember to send her a thank-you note. By the time we eat dinner, the Battle is roaring at full pitch. Grades, blah, blah, blah, Attitude, blah, blah, blah, Help around the house, blah, blah, blah, Not a kid anymore, blah, blah, blah.</p> <p>I watch the eruptions. Mount Dad, long dormant, now considered armed and dangerous. Mount Saint Mom, oozing lava, spitting flame. Warn the villagers to run into the sea."</p>

3. Write a 3-point interpretation of the figurative language example above.

- **1 point:** Identify the type of figurative language being used. Identify the two objects being compared, what's being exaggerated, or the object being personified.
  
- **2 point:** Explain the example in literal language.
  
- **3 point:** Explain why the speaker or narrator uses the example of figurative language.

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## Exit Ticket #99

**Directions:** Interpret the meaning of the metaphors and similes in the lines from Billy Collin's poem "Introduction to Poetry."

I want them to waterski  
across the surface of a poem  
waving at the author's name on the shore.

But all they want to do  
is tie the poem to a chair with rope  
and torture a confession out of it.

Type of Figurative Language	Quote
	"I want them to waterski / across the surface of a poem / waving at the author's name on the shore" (lines 1-3).

- **1 point:** Identify the type of figurative language being used. Identify the two objects being compared, what's being exaggerated, or the object being personified.
- **2 point:** Explain the example in literal language.
- **3 point:** Explain why the speaker or narrator uses the example of figurative language.