

Worksheet 2: Figurative Language Part 1 (Simile, Metaphor, Personification)

Date: _____

Figurative language is the use of words or expressions that convey meanings different from their literal interpretation. It includes things like **similes**, **metaphors**, **personification**, **hyperbole**, **alliteration**, **idioms**, and **onomatopoeia**.

Why do writers use figurative language?

- **makes writing more exciting**—it colors words with emotion and creativity.
- **helps us picture things**—like reading “as light as a feather” instead of just “very light.”
- **grows our thinking**—because it’s comparing, imagining and feeling all at once.

1. Similes

A simile is a figure of speech that compares two different things using the words “like” or “as”.

Examples:

- Her smile was as bright as the sun.

Figurative meaning: Her smile was extremely cheerful and warm that it lit up her surroundings, just like the sun brightens everything around it.

- He was as brave as a lion.

Figurative meaning: He was exceptionally courageous and fearless.

Creating your own similes

- Choose something to describe (e.g., tree, pillow, friend)
- Think of a familiar thing that shares qualities (e.g., umbrella, cotton, cloud)
- Use “like” or “as...” to connect:
The tree is like a giant umbrella.
The pillow is as soft as cotton.

1. Circle the two things being compared in each sentence and underline the simile (the part of the sentence that uses "like" or "as" to make the comparison).

a. Her smile was as bright as the sun.

Answer: Her smile was as bright as the sun.

b. The wind howled like a wolf in the night.

c. His voice was as smooth as silk.

d. The classroom was as noisy as a beehive.

e. She danced like a graceful swan.

f. The car roared like a lion.

g. His hands were as cold as ice.

2. Create a sentence for each of the following similes.

a. as smooth as silk _____

b. as light as a feather _____

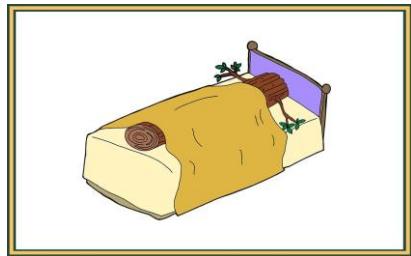
c. as tall as a giraffe _____

d. as slow as a snail _____

e. as busy as a bee _____

3. Look closely at each picture and then write a sentence containing a simile.

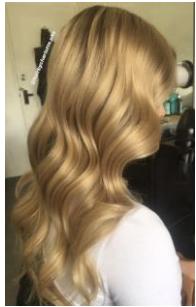
a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



4. Create your own similes.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. Metaphors

A **metaphor** is a figure of speech that **says something is something else**, not using "like" or "as." It compares directly to paint a vivid picture.

- Simile: uses *like* or *as* (Her smile was **like** sunshine.)
- Metaphor: **says one thing is another** (Her smile **was** sunshine.)

Examples:

- **Life is a rollercoaster.**

Figurative meaning: Just like a rollercoaster goes up and down and twists around, life has happy and sad moments, surprises and sometimes things we don't expect.

- **Her hair was a golden river.**

Figurative meaning: Her hair shines brightly and flows smoothly, just like a beautiful, shiny river made of gold.

- **The classroom was a zoo.**

Figurative meaning: The classroom was very loud and busy, like a zoo full of noisy animals.

1. Circle the two things being compared in each sentence.

a. Time is a thief.

b. My brain is a sponge.

c. His temper was a volcano.

d. They are night owls.

e. The kids were monkeys on the jungle gym.

f. The snow was a blanket covering the ground.

g. Their home was a prison.

h. Your room has mountains of clothes everywhere.

2. Complete the metaphor.

a glowing lantern	a maze of towering trees
a soft melody	sparkling sapphires

- a. Her eyes were _____.
- b. The moon was _____.
- c. His voice was _____.
- d. The forest was _____.

3. Rewrite this simile into a metaphor.

- a. She was as brave as a lion. _____
- b. His ideas flew like rockets. _____
- c. Her laugh was like music. _____
- d. The snow lay like a blanket. _____
- e. The test was as easy as pie. _____

4. Read each question and create a metaphor.

- a. What is something in your life that feels like a journey?

Answer: My school day is a race.

- b. Think of a feeling you often have. What object or animal could represent that feeling?

- c. If your favorite season was an object, what would it be?

- d. What is something you do well? What could it be compared to?

- e. Think of a challenge you face. What could it be compared to?

- f. If your imagination was a place, what would it look like?

g. What is something you love doing? What could it be compared to?

h. Think of a time when you felt proud. What could that moment be compared to?

3. Personification

Personification is giving **human qualities or actions** to non-human things to make pictures in our minds.

Examples:

- The waves **danced** in the moonlight.

Figurative Meaning: The waves moved gracefully and rhythmically under the moon's glow. This gives the water playful, lively movement instead of simply saying it moved

- The wind **whispered** in the trees.

Figurative Meaning: The wind blew so softly through the leaves that it sounded like gentle whispering. This makes the scene sound peaceful and calm

- The sun **smiled** down on us.

Figurative Meaning: This shows us it's a bright, cheerful and pleasant day as if the sun is warmly greeting us.

1. Read the sentence and circle the object or idea that is being personified. Underline the human action or feeling given to it.

- a. The wind howled through the night.
- b. The sun yawned over the mountains.
- c. The flowers danced in the breeze.
- d. My alarm clock yelled at me.

2. Complete each sentence by adding a human action.

tapped gently	groaned	giggled
exploded	whispered secrets	crept

- a. The leaves _____ in the wind.
- b. The rain _____ on the roof.
- c. The river _____ past the rocks.
- d. The computer _____ when I clicked too much.
- e. The playground _____ with laughter.
- f. The shadows _____ along the wall.

3. Change these plain sentences into a personification sentences.

- a. The tree was tall. → The tree _____.
- b. The storm was loud. → The storm _____.
- c. The house was old. → The house _____.
- d. The road was long. → The road _____.
- e. The wind was strong. → The wind _____.
- f. The cake smelled delicious. → The cake _____.
- g. The toy looked fun. → The toy _____.
- h. The night was dark. → The night _____.

4. Think of something in your classroom, backyard or home. Write a sentence giving it a human action or feeling.

Mixed questions

1. Write on the lines whether each sentence is a simile or a metaphor.

- a. George was as fast as the lightning when he was at the race. _____
- b. My bag is as light as a feather. _____
- c. My brother was a real bear when he woke up. _____
- d. Cindy is a fish when she swims. _____
- e. Tom is like a computer when he does his math. _____
- f. Tom is a human calculator. _____
- g. The music was as soothing as rain. _____
- h. The grass is a green carpet for the golfers. _____
- i. The inside of the car was a refrigerator. _____
- j. During the assessment, we were as quiet as mice. _____
- k. They have the heart of a lion. _____

2. Write on each line whether the sentence contains a simile, metaphor, or personification.

- a. The leaves fell like rain. _____
- b. The glasses danced on the shelf during the earthquake.

- c. The rusty door hinge screamed every time the door opened.

- d. The wind was like a piercing arrow. _____
- e. The train screamed down the tracks. _____
- f. Fruit is fuel for a healthy body. _____
- g. Water is the hammer that erodes the rocks. _____

h. He is like a rocket on his bike. _____

i. The new neighbor is as curious as a cat; nothing escapes her attention.

j. The afternoon is so bright that the sun would have to wear sunglasses.

3. Explain what does the sentence mean.

a. They have the heart of a lion. _____

b. He is like a rocket on his bike. _____

c. The train screamed down the tracks. _____

4. Write an example of:

a. a simile _____

b. a metaphor _____

c. a personification _____