

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IS WHEN A WRITER DESCRIBES SOMETHING USING COMPARISONS THAT GO BEYOND LITERAL MEANING. IT IS NOT MEANT TO BE INTERPRETED IN A WORD BY WORD SENSE. THE OBJECTS THAT ARE BEING COMPARED ARE DIFFERENT ENOUGH IN WAYS SO THAT THEIR SIMILARITIES, WHEN POINTED OUT, ARE INTERESTING, UNIQUE, AND SURPRISING.

**PERSONIFICATION:** Giving human qualities or actions to something that is not human.

- The wind whispered through the trees.
- The stars danced in the night sky.

**METAPHOR:** A comparison of two different things that does not use connecting words.

- The teacher is a mother hen.
- His father is a grumpy old bear.

**SIMILE:** A comparison of two different things using the connecting words *like* or *as*.

- His hand was as cold as ice.
- She threw the snow like a cannonball.

**HYPERBOLE:** A deliberate over-exaggeration used to emphasize a point.

- My cat weighs a ton.
- If I told you once, I told you a million times...

**ONOMATOPOEIA:** Words that imitate real sounds.

- The bees buzzed.
- The leaky tire hissed before it was repaired.

**ALLITERATION:** The repeating of the same beginning sound in a group of words.

- The dog drank daintily from her dish.
- Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

**IDIOMS:** A common saying whose meaning can't be understood from the individual words in it.

- She was tickled pink after receiving a long awaited gift.
- On the night of the play, Anna's dad told her to break a leg.