Figurative Language
Figuring it Out

HMS 6th grade Language Arts Department
I can determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are read in a text.
Figurative Language vs Literal Language
Literal Meaning

Words say exactly what they mean.

- The car is blue.
- He caught the football.
Figurative Meaning
Words say one thing, but mean another
- I’ve got your back.
- You’re a doll.

(Figures of Speech)
Simile

Comparison of two unlike things using “like” or “as.”

Examples:
- The metal twisted like a ribbon.
- She is as sweet as candy.
Important!

Using “like” or “as” doesn’t make a simile.

A *comparison* of two unlike things must be made.
**Simile**: The moon is *like* a pizza.

**Not a Simile**: *I like* pizza.
Metaphor

Two things are compared **without** using “like” or “as.”

**Examples:**

- All the world is a stage.
- She is a rose.
- He has a stone heart.
Personification

Giving human traits to objects or ideas.

Examples:
The sunlight danced.
Water on the lake shivers.
The streets are calling me.
Hyperbole

Exaggerating to show strong feeling or effect.

Examples:
- I will love you forever.
- My house is a million miles from here.
- She’d kill me.
Understatement

Expression with less strength than expected. The opposite of hyperbole.

Example:
- I’ll be there in one second.
- This won’t hurt a bit.
Alliteration

Repetition of the initial consonant sounds.

Example:
Slowly, silently, the shining moon
Walks the night in her silvery sheen.
Onomatopoeia

The naming of a thing or action by imitation of natural sounds.

Examples:
The fly *buzzed* around her head.
The *hiss* of the snake caught my attention.
Idiom

An expression that cannot be understood from the meanings of its separate words but must be learned as a whole.

Example: It’s raining cats and dogs.
Now, let’s practice!

On a sheet of paper…

1. On the following slides are examples of figurative language.

2. You will write whether it is an **simile**, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, or under**statement**.

3. You **can** use your notes.
He drew a line as straight as an arrow.
Knowledge is a kingdom and all who learn are kings and queens.
Can I see you for a second?
The sun was beating down on me.
A flag wags like a fishhook there in the sky.
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I'd rather take baths with a man-eating shark, or wrestle a lion alone in the dark, eat spinach and liver, pet ten porcupines, than tackle the homework, my teacher assigns.
Ravenous and savage from its long polar journey, the North Wind is searching for food—
The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.
Can I have one of your chips?
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
PAUSE AND REFLECT...

Before moving on to the next slides, take a moment to review your work and understanding of figurative language. Then, move on to the following slide to check/correct your answers.
Answers

1. Simile
2. Metaphor
3. Understatement
4. Personification
5. Simile
6. Hyperbole
7. Personification
8. Metaphor
9. Understatement
10. Metaphor