

Figurative Language Study Guide

I. Definitions:

Write the definition for each term and write your own example of each.

Term	Definition	Example
1. Simile	A comparison of two unlike things using words such as like or as.	Your love is like a rollercoaster. Her eyes are like the sun.
2. Metaphor	A direct comparison of two unlike things.	My heart was a pounding drum, beating in my chest. His eyes are the ocean.
3. Personification	Giving a non-human creature/object human attributes or qualities.	The wind screamed angrily at my window. The storm fell angrily on the tin roof.
4. Colloquialism	nonstandard, often regional, ways of using language.	Ya'll, You guys, clicker, blinker

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5. Imagery	Word or words that evoke a sensory experience. Can be auditory, gustatory, olfactory, tactile, and visual	The trash stinks like rotten meat. The crimson liquid spilled from the neck of the white dove, staining and matting its pure, white feathers.
5. Theme	The theme in a story is its underlining message, or 'big idea.'	Example: Friendship, family, childhood innocence, self-identity
6. Tone	How the author feels about what he/she is writing	Spooky, fondness, anger, sadness, sorrow, happiness

II. Identification: “Abuelito Who”

Read the following poem and pull out examples of figurative language. Write out the quote next to the correct term. There are several possible correct answers for each term.

Abuelito Who

Abuelito who throws coins like rain
and asks who loves him
who is dough and feathers
who is a watch and glass of water
whose hair is made of fur
is too sad to come downstairs today
who tells me in Spanish you are my diamond
who tells me in English you are my sky
whose little eyes are string
can't come out to play
sleeps in his little room all night and day
who used to laugh and like the letter k
is sick
is a doorknob tied to a sour stick
is tired shut the door
doesn't live here anymore
is hiding underneath the bed
who talks to me inside my head
is blankets and spoons and big brown shoes
who snores up and down up and down up and down again

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is the rain on the room that falls like coins
asking who loves him
who loves him who?
—Sandra Cisneros

**Abuelito* is an affectionate term for grandfather in Spanish.

Term	Quote
Simile	“Abuelito who throws coins like rain”
Simile	“is the rain on the room that falls like coins”
Metaphor	“who is a watch and glass of water” “who is dough and feathers”