

Figurative Language

Figurative language is used to make writing more interesting and easier for your reader to visualize.

Similes & Metaphors
Comparing two unlike things

Simile: A simile makes the comparison using the words like or as.

She was AS pretty AS a flower.

Her hair was flowing LIKE a rainbow.

Metaphor: A metaphor uses the verb is, was, were, etc. to make a direct comparison of two objects.

He WAS a mountain. (He is not actually a mountain)

She IS a dandelion. (she is not actually a flower)

Idiom

Idiom: A phrase or saying that means something completely different than what it says.

Idiom	Meaning
Don't let the cat out of the bag	→ Don't tell the secret.
He has butterflies in his stomach.	→ He is nervous.
She is under the weather	→ She is feeling sick.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole: An exaggeration that S-T-R-E-T-C-H-E-S the truth.

That joke is so old, last time I heard it I was riding a dinosaur.
(The joke was in fact old but it didn't go back to the time before the ice age!)

Personification

Personification: Giving an object a human feeling or emotion.

The sun glared down at me from the sky.
(Humans with eyes glare. Glaring means to stare in an angry or fierce way.)

The wind howled in agony.
(Humans and animals can howl but the wind can make a noise that sounds like a howl.)

I could hear Hawaii calling my name.
(Can Hawaii speak? No, but someone can feel an emotional pull to a place.)

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia: A word that spells out the sound it makes.

Crash! I knew I was in trouble as soon as I heard that sound.

A shot rang out like a bang in the quiet night sky.

Repetition

Repetition: Repeating the same word or phrase to emphasize or make the meaning clearer

Alliteration

Alliteration: The repetition of an initial consonant sound in multiple words in a sentence or stanza.

Roy **r**an in the **r**aging **r**ain.

I **s**lipped **s**lyly into the **s**low, **s**lippery **s**led.

Her **b**rown **b**raid **b**rushed the **b**ridge of her **b**row.

“**W**ait,” **w**hispered **W**endy, her gaze **w**andering **w**istfully.

Allusion

Allusion: a brief reference to a person, place, event, or passage in a work of literature or religious text assumed to be sufficiently well known to be recognized by the reader. (**Historical allusion, religious allusion, literary allusion**)

You're acting like such a Scrooge!

This is your Waterloo!

Imagery

Imagery: words that create a mental picture and appeal to the senses (sight, touch, smell, sound).

My head is pounding like a drum.

The night was black as ever, but bright stars lit up the sky.

I heard the machine make a great slushing noise.