

Figurative Language Cheat Sheet

***Read these notes and pay special attention to the examples.*

Figurative Language

Figurative language is a tool that an author uses, to help the reader visualize, or see, what is happening in a story or poem.

Types of Figurative Language

Simile is a comparison using like or as. It usually compares two unlike objects.

Example: His *feet* are as big as *boats*. Feet and boats are being compared.

Metaphor states that one thing *is* something else. It is a comparison, but does NOT use like or as to make the comparison.

Example: Her *hair* is *silk*. Hair and silk are being compared.

PERSONIFICATION IS GIVING HUMAN QUALITIES, FEELINGS, ACTIONS, OR CHARACTERISTICS TO INANIMATE (NOT LIVING) OBJECTS.

Example: The house stared at me with looming eyes.

Alliteration is the repetition of the initial consonant. There should be at least two repetitions in a row.

Example: **P**eter **P**iper **p**icked a **p**eck of **p**ickled **p**eppers. The first letter, p, is a consonant. Its sound is repeated many times.

Onomatopoeia is the imitation of natural sounds in word form. These words help us form mental pictures, or visualize, things, people, or places that are described. Sometimes a word names a thing or action by copying the sound.

Example: Bong! Hiss Buzz!

Symbolism occurs when one thing stands for or represents something else.

Example: The dove symbolizes peace.

HYPERBOLE IS INTENTIONALLY EXAGGERATED FIGURES OF SPEECH.

Example: It was raining cats and dogs.

Imagery involves one or more of your five senses - the abilities to hear, taste, touch, smell, and see. An author uses a word or phrase to stimulate your memory of those senses and to help create mental pictures.

Idioms An expression that means something other than the literal meanings of its individual words. They are overused expressions.