Figurative Language and Other Literary Terms
What You Need to Know

- Figurative vs. Literal
- Alliteration
- Simile
- Metaphor
- Hyperbole
- Onomatopoeia

- Imagery
- Repetition
- Slang
- Jargon
- Colloquialism
**Figurative Language** - Speech or writing that goes away from literal meaning in order to achieve a special effect or meaning.

**Literal Language** - Words and language that mean exactly what they say; it has one clear meaning.

Diagram:
- Conveys an idea
- Uses exaggerations and comparisons
- Paints a picture in reader's mind
- Implied meaning

Figurative Language
What is Figurative Language?

• Speech or writing that goes away from literal meaning in order to achieve a special effect or meaning.

Is this you right now?
Figurative vs. Literal

• **Figurative Language**: Language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. It creates more than just surface meaning.

• **Literal Language**: Words and language that mean exactly what they say. It has one clear meaning.
Figurative Language

- Implied meaning
- Conveys an idea
- Paints a picture in reader’s mind
- Uses exaggerations and comparisons
| Figurative | Literal |
**Figurative**

- I'm so hungry I could eat a whole elephant.

**Literal**

- I'm very hungry.

It's raining a lot.

It's raining cats and dogs.

I'd like to ask your daughter to marry me.
Alliteration

• The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

• Example: Amanda ate an apple as she admired an amazing anteater.

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkyliSN8eKg
Alliteration: The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

**EXAMPLE:**
Gary’s giraffe gobbled gooseberries greedily, getting good at grabbing goodies!

Write 5 examples of alliteration using the first letter of your classmate’s names as the beginning sound.

Name of classmate:
Ms. Becking

Name of classmate:
Ms. Lege

Name of classmate:

Name of classmate:

Name of classmate:
Onomatopoeia

- The use of words that mimic sounds.
- Examples: Moo, splat, ring, meow, honk, boom.
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uxds7sh44Pk
Onomatopoeia
- The use of words that mimic sounds.
Examples: moo, splat, ring, meow, hook.

Comic

BUZZ!
Sting me.

SIZZLE!
Simile

- A comparison of two unlike things using like or as.

- Her eyes were like diamonds.
Metaphor

• A comparison of two unlike things that says one thing is another. Does not use like or as.
  – She is a shining star in her class.
  – Mr. Wordsmith is a walking dictionary.

• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoSBVNUO2LU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoSBVNUO2LU) – Similes and metaphors
• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=LyaNIZaVOpc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=LyaNIZaVOpc) – Metaphors
1. The dog was a jack-in-the-box, trying to jump up on the visitors.
   a) simile
   b) metaphor

2. "Chocolate is my ray of sunshine on a bad day," admitted Reena.
   a) simile
   b) metaphor

3. The lettuce was as crisp as an early fall morning.
   a) simile
   b) metaphor

4. The pool was a boiling cauldron on that hot summer day.
   a) simile
   b) metaphor

5. "I feel like road kill; it's been a rough week," announced Samira as she walked in.
   a) simile
   b) metaphor

6. The sisters are like two peas in a pod.
   a) simile
   b) metaphor
A **hyperbole** is an exaggeration which may be used for emphasis and humor.

Hyperboles are used in speaking and writing for effect or to make a boring story more interesting.

**Examples:**

– I’ve asked you to clean your room one hundred times!
– I am the best basketball player in the whole world.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUzScx6_lWg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUzScx6_lWg)
Imagery

- The author’s use of language that appeals to the five senses in order to help the reader paint a picture in their minds.
A Trip to the Beach

- I taste
- I touch
- I smell
- I feel
- I hear
Personification

• Giving human characteristics to animals, objects, or ideas (non-human things).

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMKgLnhelX4 (up to 2:15)

- The car's engine coughed its last breath.

- The carved pumpkin smiled at us.

- The flame of the candle danced in the dark.
Repetition

• Repeating a word, phrase, or sentence.
• Why?
  – To add emphasis and bring attention to an idea.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXT0gMl60s
Review...

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIWTXqJz4mU
Slang, Jargon, Colloquialism

Slang- A type of language that is regarded as very informal. Not considered part of standard language. Used in groups such as teenagers.  
Examples: photo-bomb, that’s sick

Jargon- A type of language that is used between members of a particular group of people, often words that are meaningless outside of a certain context.  
Examples: Medical jargon – BP (blood pressure), “legalese”

Colloquialism- Informal language. A local or regional expression.  
Examples: bunny-hug, soccer vs. football
Figurative Language Project

Part One

• Choose a photograph or an image from a magazine. This will be the topic you are writing about, so choose something interesting!

• Glue your photo in the middle of your page as you will be creating a figurative language web around it.

• Write two sentences about your picture for each type of figurative language:
  – Alliteration
  – Onomatopoeia
  – Simile
  – Metaphor
  – Hyperbole
  – Personification

**Make sure you label your sentences.**
Similes
- Her pants were as black as night.
- The snow was as soft as a cotton ball.

Personification
- Her skis were running in the snow.
- The trees danced with the snow.

Alliteration
- The grape goggles looked great.
- The skier skied slow and steady.

Hyperbole
- The snow covered the whole entire world.
- The skis were a mile long.

Metaphor
- Skiing for her was a walk in the park.
- The trees were sharp needles.
Part Two

• Write a paragraph about your picture using imagery.
  – You must include all five of the senses
• Write your paragraph on a separate piece of paper and attach your paragraph to your web with a staple. It may be typed or hand-written (must be legible).
• Fill out and attach your assessment sheet to your project.