



5th Grade

Figurative Language

- Identify and understand new uses of words and phrases in text, such as similes and metaphors
- Interpret how an author's choice of words appeals to the senses and suggests mood
- Identify and explain the use of figurative language in literary words, including idioms, similes, hyperboles, metaphors and personification

What Students Need to Know:

- figurative language
 - idioms
 - similes
 - hyperboles
 - metaphors
 - personification
- author's choice of words
- mood

What Students Need to be Able to Do:

- identify (new uses of words)
- understand (new uses of words)
- interpret (author's choice of words appeals to senses and suggests mood)
- identify (use of figurative language)
- explain (figurative language)

Important Vocabulary

Figurative language— language enriched by word images and figures of speech

Hyperbole—A figure of speech which uses a deliberate exaggeration (e.g., I have told you a *million* times.)

Idiom—A combination of words that is not strictly in accordance with grammatical rules and often possesses a meaning other than its grammatical or logical one (e.g., an easy test might be described as a *piece of cake*)

Metaphor—A figure of speech in which an implied comparison is made between two unlike things (e.g., he's a tiger).

Mood—The feeling or atmosphere that a writer creates for a reader; a reflection of an author's attitude toward a subject or theme

Personification—A figure of speech in which human qualities are attributed to animals, inanimate objects or ideas (e.g., happy house)

Simile—A figure of speech in which a comparison is made between two unlike things using the words "like" or "as" (e.g., she's as sly as a fox).

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Figurative Speech/Language comes in many forms:

- Simile (Comparisons often with as or like): As smooth as silk, as fast as the wind. Quick like a lightning bolt.
- Metaphor (Implicit comparison without like or as): You're such an airhead. It's bursting with flavor.
- Hyperbole (Exaggerating statement): In order to get my assignment done, I'll have to burn the midnight oil.
- Personification (Giving something a human quality): The sun smiled down on me...The leaves danced in the wind.
- Idiom (An everyday saying that doesn't exactly mean what the words say): It's raining cats and dogs. He's a backseat driver.

As a teacher, take time to teach the meanings of figurative language. Let the students brainstorm possible sayings for figurative language. Take a look at the list below and have students brainstorm a context for which the phrases could be used. For instance: When I want to use "Bells and whistles," I could be referring to the new computer I just bought which has lots of memory, a dvd burner, an amazing video card, a wireless keyboard and a mouse. Therefore I could say "My new computer has all the bells and whistles."

Use the list below, or let students brainstorm a list of figures of speech. Let them identify what the possible meanings of the phrases could be.

Some phrases that use figurative language:

At the drop of a hat.

Axe to grind.

Back to square one.

Bells and whistles.

Bed of roses.

Burn the midnight oil.

Clean sweep.

Chew the fat.

Cold feet.

Coast is clear.

Down in the dumps.

Ears are burning.

Forty winks.

Full of beans. Give me a break.

Give my right arm.

In a nutshell/pickle.

In the bag.

It's greek to me.

Final straw.

Let the cat out of the bag.

Long shot.

Mum's the word.

On the ball.

Out on a limb.

Pass the buck.

Pay through the nose.

Read between the lines.

Saved by the bell.

Spill the beans.

Take a rain check.

Through the grapevine.

True colors.

Under the weather.

Up my sleeve.

Upset the apple cart.

Walking on eggshells.

Easier - Figurative language or speech contains images. The writer or speaker describes something through the use of unusual comparisons, for effect, interest, and to make things clearer. The result of using this technique is the creation of interesting images.

Harder - Figurative language is not intended to be interpreted in a literal sense. Appealing to the imagination, figurative language provides new ways of looking at the world. It always makes use of a comparison between different things. Figurative language compares two things that are different in enough ways so that their similarities, when pointed out, are interesting, unique and/or surprising.

QUESTIONS FROM PREVIOUS TESTS

<p>“It was as big as a pea.” What figure of speech does the author use in this sentence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. MetaphorB. SimileC. IdiomD. Personification	<p>Grandfather’s fingers Wrap around my hand And warm me like a mitten. What type of figurative language is used in this sentence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. IdiomB. PersonificationC. SimileD. Metaphor
<p>What does the sentence “His voice grows soft — so soft” mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Grandfather speaks to someone else.B. Grandfather must repeat himself.C. Grandfather tells a secret.D. Grandfather’s voice fades.	<p>Which word suggests the mood of the poem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. ExcitementB. AngryC. ConfusionD. Loving
<p>What is the mood of the poem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. HappyB. AnxiousC. HostileD. Amusing	<p>“And flowers lift their heads,” What activity is the poet describing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Flowers looking at the skyB. Flowers waking upC. Flowers bloomingD. Flowers wilting