

Figurative Language

**Put some color into your
writing.**

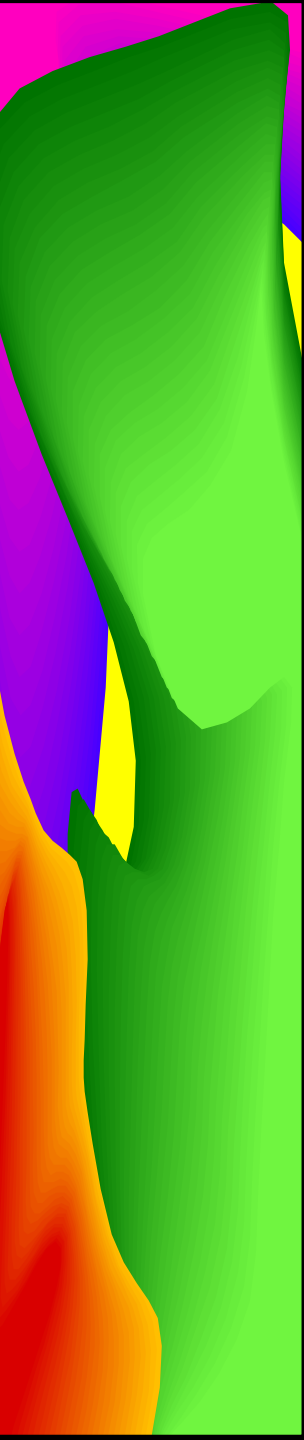
Use figurative language!





Objectives

- You will learn about six types of figurative language.
- You will be able to recognize and understand figurative language in your reading.
- You will be able to use figurative language to make your writing more colorful.



What is figurative language?

- Figurative language is writing or speech that is not to be taken literally. It is used by writers for descriptive effect.
- The many types of figurative language are known as *figures of speech*.



Why do writers use figurative language?

- Writers use figurative language to state ideas in vivid and imaginative ways.
- Figurative language helps the reader visualize what the writer is thinking.
- It puts a picture in the reader's mind.



What are some types of figurative language?

- Simile
- Metaphor
- Personification
- Onomatopoeia
- Hyperbole
- Alliteration

Simile

- a comparison of two things using “like” or “as”

Example: (Good) *The old man’s mind was still as sharp as a tack.*
(Better) *The old man’s brain still hummed like a super computer.*



Metaphor

- an expression that equates or compares two different things without using “like” or “as”



Example: *You are the sunshine of my life.*



Personification


- a type of figurative language in which a nonhuman subject is given human characteristics 🦟

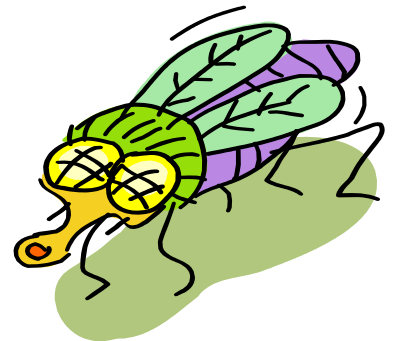
Example: *The wind sang her mournful song through the falling leaves.*



Onomatopoeia

- the use of words that imitate sounds

Example:  *The constant **buzz** of the fly almost made me lose my mind!*



Hyperbole

- a figure of speech that makes an obvious exaggeration for emphasis or comic effect...Hyperbole is *supposed* to create a ridiculous picture in the reader's mind in order to make a point.



Example: *I had so much homework, I needed a pickup truck to carry all my books home!*



Alliteration

- the repetition of beginning consonant sounds in words occurring near each other... Tongue twisters are examples of alliteration. 📢
- **Example:** *David's darling dog didn't dig dirt in the dark.*



IN CONCLUSION...

- # Use figurative language to make your writing more colorful—to paint word pictures.
- # Notice figurative language when you are reading. It makes literature come alive!
- # Understanding figurative language makes you a better reader *and* writer.

