

# *A Language Presentation*

- Sit back
- Relax
- Absorb

You can take notes the second time around.

# *Language Types*

We're going to look at two types of language:

*figurative language*

and *literal* language

# *Figurative vs. Literal*

To understand

*figurative language*

one has to understand the  
difference between

*figurative* and *literal*

# *More on Literal*

To be *literal* is to mean what you say. For example:

If I tell you to sit down!

I mean it *literally*: “sit down,”  
as in: “sit in your seat now,  
please.”

My meaning is exactly what I say.

## *and more on Literal*

Here's another example.

*I'm tired and going home.*

This means “I’m tired and I’m going home” there is no other meaning other than what is said.

I mean exactly what I say.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Figurative

To be *figurative* is to not mean what you say but imply something else. For example:

If, I tell you: “*let’s go chill!*”

I’m not suggesting we get into the freezer.

# *Figurative continued*

*“let’s go chill”* ...

...means let’s relax together  
and do something fun.

It has nothing  
to do with temperature.

# *Figurative vs. Literal*

Confused?

Think of it this way:

*Literal* as real

*Figurative* as imaginary

# *Why Figurative Language?*

Also known as descriptive language, or poetic language, *figurative language* helps the writer paint a picture in the reader's mind.

# *Why Figurative Language?*

You know descriptive,  
that's when you describe  
something.

# *Why Figurative Language?*

Poetic language, that's what poets do.

*Figurative language* helps paint a picture in the reader's mind.

# *Again: Figurative Language*

Figurative Language does not always mean what is being said or read, but serves to make it more interesting.

# *Seven Techniques of Figurative Language*

There are seven techniques that we're going to look at, and yes, you'll need to learn all seven.

# *Seven Techniques of Figurative Language*

You will need to:

- understand them
- identify them
- use them in your writing

# *Seven Techniques of Figurative Language*

The seven techniques you need to know:

- onomatopoeia
- alliteration
- simile
- metaphor
- personification
- idiom
- hyperbole

# *Seven Techniques of Figurative Language*

Let's look at the techniques one at a time.

So here we go.

Hold onto your seats.

# *Onomatopoeia*

Examples of the *onomatopoeia*:

- *Bang*, went the gun!
- *Swoosh* went the basketball through the hoop.

# *Onomatopoeia*

The formation or use of words such as *buzz*, *murmur* or *boo* that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to.

# *Onomatopoeia in practice*

Onomatopoeia is the use of words whose sounds make you think of their meanings.

For example; **buzz, thump, pop.**

Many comic strips use onomatopoeia.

# Onomatopoeia



# Alliteration

A poetic device which repeats the same beginning sound for effect.

Examples of Alliteration:

- Sally Sells Seashells By The Sea Shore
- Rolling, Racing, Roaring, Rapids

# *Alliteration*

Alliteration is a sentence or phrase that begins with the same letter and sound. Tongue twisters are generally alliterations.

For example: **busy batters bat  
baseballs by bases.**

# *Alliteration*

*Alliteration* is the repetition of the beginning sounds in two or more words. Remember *alliteration* as a tongue twister, such as:

"Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers."

# Simile

A simile is a *figurative language* technique where a comparison is made using *like* or *as*.

Examples of similes:

- She is like a rainy day.
- He is as busy as a bee.
- They are like two peas in a pod.

# *Simile*

A figure of speech in which two essentially unlike things are compared, often in a phrase introduced by *like* or *as*, as in:

*“How like the winter hath my absence been”* or *“So are you to my thoughts as food to life”*  
(Shakespeare).

# *Complete your custom simile*

- The cat was as scary as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The night is like a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The moon is like a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The scarecrow was as scary a \_\_\_\_\_.

# *Metaphor*

A poetic comparison that does **not** use the words like or as.

Examples of metaphors:

- She is a graceful swan.
- He is a golden god.
- They are honey from the honeycomb.

# *Metaphor*

A figure of speech in which a word or phrase that ordinarily designates one thing is used to designate another, thus making an implicit comparison, as in “*a sea of troubles*” or “All the world's a stage” (Shakespeare).

*Brian was a wall, bouncing every tennis ball back over the net.*

This metaphor compares Brian to a wall because \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. He was very strong.
- b. He was very tall.
- c. He kept returning the balls.
- d. His body was made of cells.

*We would have had more pizza to eat if*

*Tammy hadn't been such a hog.*

Tammy was being compared to a hog because she \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. looked like a hog
- b. ate like a hog
- c. smelled like a hog
- d. was as smart as a hog



*Cindy was such a mule. We couldn't get her to change her mind.*

The metaphor compares Cindy to a mule because she was

\_\_\_\_\_.

- a. always eating oats
- b. able to do hard work
- c. raised on a farm
- d. very stubborn




*The poor rat didn't have a chance. Our old cat, a bolt of lightning, caught his prey.*

The cat was compared to a bolt of lightning because he was \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. very fast ← b. very bright  
c. not fond of fleas    d. very old

*Even a child could carry my dog,  
Dogface, around for hours. He's  
such a feather.*

This metaphor implies that  
Dogface:

- a. is not cute    b. looks like a bird  
c. is not heavy    d. can fly
- 

# *Personification*

Personification is a figurative language technique in which human characteristics are given to nonhuman things.

# Personification

Example of personification:

The heat ripped the breath from  
her lungs.

*The leaves danced in the wind*

# *Personification*

A figure of speech in which inanimate objects or abstractions (things that are not human) are endowed with human qualities or are represented as possessing human form.

# *Personification*

Examples of *Personification*:

*Hunger sat shivering on the road*

*Flowers danced about the lawn.*

# *Personification*

Examples:

- The sleeping water reflected the evening sky.
- Humidity breathed in the girl's face and ran its greasy fingers through her hair.
- The tree arrested the oncoming car.

# *Idiom*

An idiom is a figurative language technique that does not mean what is being said.

# Idiom

Remember what *literal* means? This is the opposite. Think about it. When you tell your hommie “**chill**,” are you suggesting they walk into a freezer? No.

# Idiom

The expression “chill,” is an idiom that means: relax, take it easy or don’t worry. There are tons of idioms. I’m sure you use several all the time, without thinking about it.

# *Idiom*

An idiom is a speech form or an expression of a given language that is peculiar to itself grammatically or cannot be understood from the individual meanings of its elements.

# *Idiom*

Idioms are known as regional speech, dialect, slang, jargon, or *legal idiom*.

# Idiom

Dude!

I can't understand the idiom all by itself. It takes reference.

Like I need to know how *whacked* you want to get before I can think of *tangling* with you.

More examples of *idioms*:

- Mommy says: “Daddy is a little pigeon toad.”
- We were chewing the fat.
- It’s raining cats and dogs.
- She’s as sharp as a tack.
- I wish he would kick the bucket.

# *Hyperbole*

- Is when one exaggerates.
- We use hyperbole all the time when we want to impress or stress.

# *Hyperbole*

Take for example:

“He **never** speaks to her.”

Never? That is a very long time.

Hyperbole means to exaggerates.

# *Hyperbole*

Hyperbole example:

- We have a **ton** of work.

A ton is a lot of work. A ton is also a thousand pounds.

# *Hyperbole*

Hyperbole example:

- I ate a **thousand pounds** of pasta.

A thousand pounds is also known as a ton, this person must be really obese.

# *Hyperbole*

Hyperbole example:

- I told you a **million** times.

I don't mind repeating myself,  
but a million times? That's a  
lot.

*We've looked at*

*Literal vs. Figurative*

Remember:

*Real vs. Imaginary*

# *We've looked at*

Seven *Figurative Language*.

techniques:

- onomatopoeia
- alliteration
- simile
- metaphor
- personification
- idiom
- hyperbole

# *State Content Standards for* *9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>*

## *Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text*

3.7 Recognize and understand the significance of various literary devices, including figurative language, imagery, allegory, and symbolism, and explain their appeal.

This Power Point  
was created by  
Mr. Stéphane Joyet  
for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade English.  
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