

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.

2nd 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 *9th and 10th*

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 9th and 10th grade English.
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