Activity: Figurative Language

Category: Academics

Suggested Grade Level: Grades 1-6

Instructions: Read the following definitions carefully and answer the questions on the next page.

- **Figurative Language** is a word or phrase that does not have its normal everyday, literal meaning. It is used by the writer for the sake of comparison or dramatic effect. Authors use similes, metaphors, hyperbole, and personification to make their stories more interesting.

- **A Simile** uses the words “like” or “as” to compare two or more unlike things, showing their similarity. Example: She was as busy as a bee.

- **A Metaphor** compares two or more unlike things WITHOUT using the words “like” or “as.” Example: She is the apple of my eye.

- **Personification** gives human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or ideas. This can really affect the way the reader imagines things. Example: The sky was full of dancing stars.

- **Hyperbole** is an outrageous exaggeration that emphasizes a point. It tends toward the ridiculous or the funny. It adds color and depth to a character. Example: You could’ve knocked me over with a feather.

- **Alliteration** is a fun sound device. It is the repetition of the first consonant sounds in several words. Example: We’re up, wide-eyed, and wondering while we wait for others to awaken.

Now let’s practice what you learned...

1. Which of the following is an example of alliteration?
   a. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled pepper.
   b. Peter Piper was as red as a beetroot.
   c. The pickled pepper invited Peter Piper to eat it.
   d. Peter Piper was very hungry.

2. “The little kitten is sweet as a pie” is an example of...
   a. Personification
   b. Hyperbole
   c. Simile
3. “The sun smiled down on a warm day,” is an example of...
   a. Metaphor
   b. Personification
   c. Hyperbole
   d. Simile

4. “The snow is a white blanket across the field,” is an example of...
   a. Metaphor
   b. Simile
   c. Personification
   d. Hyperbole

5. “Lightening danced across the night sky,” is an example of...
   a. Metaphor
   b. Hyperbole
   c. Simile
   d. Personification

6. “Silly Sally swiftly shooed seven silly sheep...” is an example of alliteration.
   a. True
   b. False

7. “The orange juice was as sour as vinegar” is an example of a simile.
   a. True
   b. False

8. “Without her glasses, Jane was blind as a bat.” What do you think this simile means?
   a. Jane can see really far without her glasses.
   b. Jane sleeps upside down like a bat.
   c. Jane can’t see anything without her glasses.
   d. Jane likes to wear her glasses all day.