

When you analyze figurative language, remember this three-step process:

- 1) **IDENTIFY** where the figurative language technique is in the sentence or and restate that part of the sentence.
- 2) **NAME** the figurative language technique being used (e.g. is it a metaphor? Simile? Euphemism? Etc.)
- 3) **EXPLAIN** what it means (why did you choose this technique) and the effect or image produced by using this figurative language technique.

For example:

QUESTION:
Identify and explain the figure of the speech used in: 'She has rats' tails for hair'.

ANSWER:
The quality of her hair is being compared to the tails of rats. This is a metaphor. This tells us that her hair is poorly maintained and in bad condition because rats are not known to be particularly hygienic creatures.

What is being compared is **IDENTIFIED**.

The technique is **NAMED**.

The technique and the image created, is **EXPLAINED**.

Common Figurative Language Techniques

Metaphor - A figure of speech that implies a comparison between two relatively unlikely things. (EXAMPLE: He is the black sheep of the family.)

Simile - A comparison between two unlike things, usually with the words 'like' or 'as'. (EXAMPLE: Our soldiers are as brave as lions.)

Personification - The giving of human qualities to an animal, object or abstract idea. (EXAMPLE: The sky weeps.)

Hyperbole - An exaggerated statement used to emphasize a point. (EXAMPLE: I have answered that question a million times.)

Synecdoche - A figure of speech in which a part is used to represent the whole, or the whole for a part. (EXAMPLE: calling a car "wheels", as wheels stands for the whole car)

Onomatopoeia - The use of words which actually sound like the objects or actions to words.



Identifying & Explaining **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

Identify, name and explain the figurative language techniques used in each of the following:

1) The sunshine smiled down upon us as we swam in the deep blue sea.

Personification, sunshine smiled down, the sun cannot smile because it is not human

2) To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

3) I don't want to go to the dance; I have two left feet.

4) What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?

5) "Gentlemen, you can't fight in here! This is the War Room."

6) Good men are gruff and grumpy, cranky, crabbed, and cross.

7) My house is a million miles from here.

8) You could hear the gentle hum of the computers in the background.

9) I used to have a fear of hurdles, but I got over it.

10) He drew a line as straight as an arrow.

11) "Good grief!" she exclaimed. "Surely you didn't just lie to me."

12) It was time to go home, but the bell refused to ring.

13) The metal twisted like a ribbon in his dexterous hands.

14) The doomed youth stood on the hill.

15) The children were roses grown in concrete gardens, beautiful and forlorn.

16) His soul swooned slowly as he heard the snow falling faintly through the universe.



Identifying **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE** in newspaper headlines

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For each of the following newspaper headlines, identify and explain the figurative language technique used.

1
**OUR AMATEUR
EXPERT SPEAKS OUT**

2
**JAPAN'S FULL-BODY
TATTOOS; A DYEING ART**

3 GIANT POTHOLE
SWALLOWS CAR
IN GERMANY

4 NEW LEGISLATION IS A
MINEFIELD FOR EMPLOYERS

5 SWISS SENSATION
SOARS TO WIN

6

**Bad Food Bug
Hits Britain!**