

Figurative language is a term used to describe techniques used by writers. It is used for many reasons:

- to make an idea or message more easily understood
- to create sensory responses and images in the reader's mind
- to help the reader understand a complex topic by comparing it to simpler, more easily understood situations, objects, or experiences
- to give a piece of writing rhythm

Here are some of the most commonly used figurative language devices:

1. A **simile** is a comparison between two things that share similar qualities using the words "like" or "as."

Example: The clouds were tinged with pink like the cotton candy you get at the fair.

Example: The top was swirling as rapidly as a twisting tornado.

2. A **metaphor** is a comparison between two similar objects or elements that is more hidden or implied. Sometimes the common format of a metaphor is "_____ is/was a _____," but other times the comparison is not so easy to find.

Look at the two examples below.

Example: The photo was a time machine, taking me back to the days of my childhood.

Example: The light in my heart went out with my grandmother's death, her magic no longer whirling in my unhappy existence. (The metaphors are "light" and "magic" being compared to the happiness and peace the speaker's grandmother brought into his or her life).

3. **Personification** is when a non-human thing is portrayed as having human qualities.

Example: The sky danced to the music of pounding rain and booming thunder.

4. **Onomatopoeia** is when a word imitates the sound it actually makes.

Example: I awoke to the sizzling of eggs and the popping of cooking bacon.

5. **Hyperbole** is the use of exaggeration to emphasize an idea or fact.

Example: There is nothing better than chocolate ice-cream.

6. **Repetition** is when words or phrases are repeated to emphasize the main idea of a piece of writing or create a sense of rhythm.

Example: "We few, we happy few. We band of brothers." --*Henry V* by Shakespeare

7. **Alliteration** is the repetition of sounds (often with the same beginning letter) in words of close proximity to each other.

Example: Tom was terribly tempted to taste the goodies on the table.

Look at the following poem by Amy Lowell and see if you can answer the related questions on figurative language.

[Here is the link to the poem and questions.](#)

When you have completed the answers, check to see if they are right using the link below.

<https://www.ereadingworksheets.com/figurative-language-worksheets/figurative-language-poem-07/preview/answers.jpg>

Here is a video quiz to see if you have really mastered these figurative language devices.

<https://www.teachertube.com/videos/figurative-language-quiz-437697>

When you finish, [click on my link](#) to see if you got the answers right.

Extra practice: Find your favorite song and see how many of these devices you can find. Or better yet, write your own poem and use these devices!