Words That Paint Pictures

Interpreting figures of speech in context | ELA Grade 6



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Which line grabs you?

Which line sounds most interesting to you? Why?

A The wind whispered through the trees.

B I have told you a million times!

C Her eyes were glistening jewels.

D Time flies like an arrow.

Vote with your hands, then explain why.

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BIG IDEA

Figures of speech don't mean exactly what they say — context tells you what they mean.

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4 favorites to spot

👀

Simile

Compares two things using like or as.

💎

Metaphor

Compares two things without like or as.

🌬️

Personification

Gives human actions to something nonhuman.

🏋️

Hyperbole

Big exaggeration to show a strong feeling.

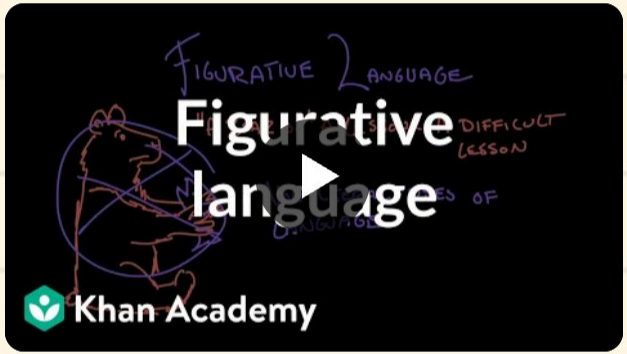
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Think, pair, share

A student says: Our classroom at lunch was a zoo. Everyone was talking and trading snacks. What does zoo really mean here? How do you know?

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Figurative language in reading



▶ 0:00 – 5:00

- Listen for literal vs. figurative meaning.
- Spot the clue words around it.
- Say the real meaning in own words.

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What is the wind doing?

The caption says: The wind whispered through the trees. Can wind really whisper?

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Personification in action



▶ 0:00 – 3:56

- Watch for human actions given to things.
- Ask: could this really happen?
- Connect it to the mood of the scene.

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Your task

In pairs, label each line simile, metaphor, personification, or hyperbole and explain the real meaning.

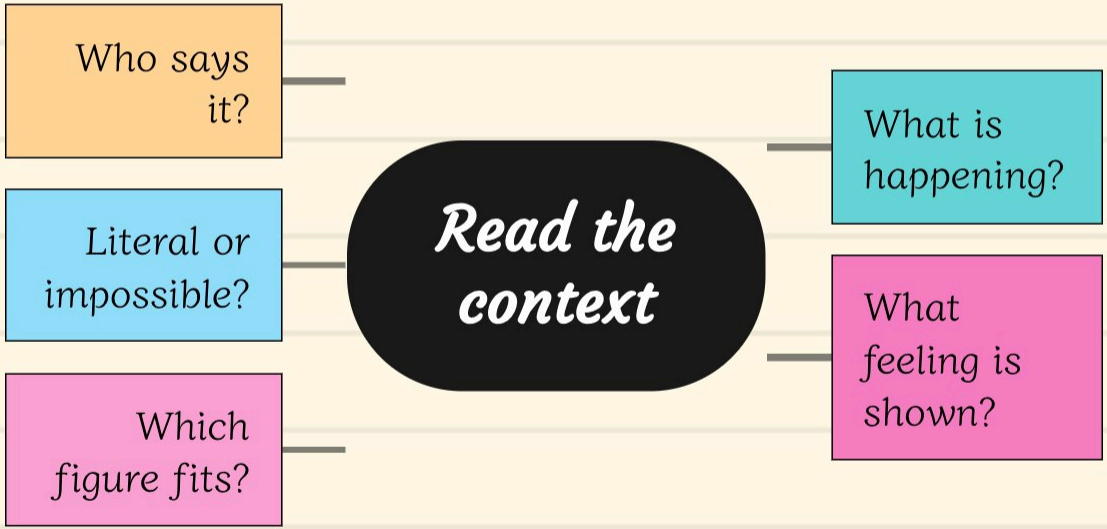
1. Read: 1. The wind danced. 2. My backpack weighs a ton. 3. Lunch line moved like a snail. 4. The gym is a furnace.
2. Label the figure for each line.
3. Tell the clue and real meaning.

10 min

In pairs

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How to interpret it



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Exit ticket

1

Interpret this: The hallway yawned before us. What figure and real meaning?

2

One thing I learned today...

3

One question I still have...

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