Painting Pictures with Words

Similes, metaphors and personification - Year 7 English



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Think, pair, share

When is 'my bag weighs a tonne' better than 'my bag is heavy'?



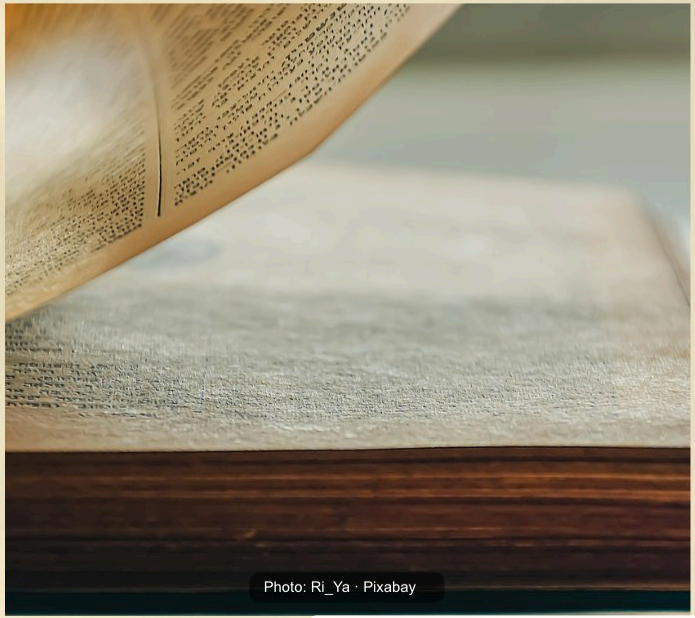
Photo: stevepb · Pixabay

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DID YOU KNOW?

Simile, metaphor and personification are three of eight types.

Writers stretch words past literal meanings to stir feelings and pictures.



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Three picture-makers

🔍

Simile

Compares using like or as: brave as a lion.

💪

Metaphor

Says one thing is another: he is a rock.

🗣️

Personification

Gives human actions to a thing: wind whispered.





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What could this be?

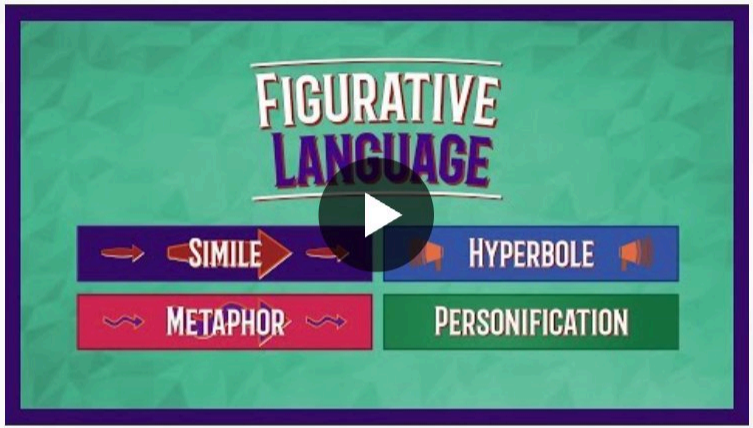


The fog sat watching the playground. What is the fog doing?



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See them in action



▶ 0:00 – 4:48

- Listen for like, as and is
- Notice how each picture changes feeling



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How they change meaning

1. Similes compare with like or as to make images clear.
2. Metaphors say one thing is another for strong feeling.
3. Personification gives human actions to objects to bring them alive.
4. Good writers choose the image that fits the mood.



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Spot the device



▶ 0:00 – 2:49

- Spot song-like images in examples
- Decide which feeling each image creates

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Your task



In pairs, describe a stormy breaktime using all three devices to show mood.

1. Draft one simile, one metaphor and one personification.
2. Pick your favourite and improve vocabulary choice.
3. Be ready to explain what feeling it presents.

10 min

In pairs

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BIG IDEA

Figurative language paints feelings, not just pictures.

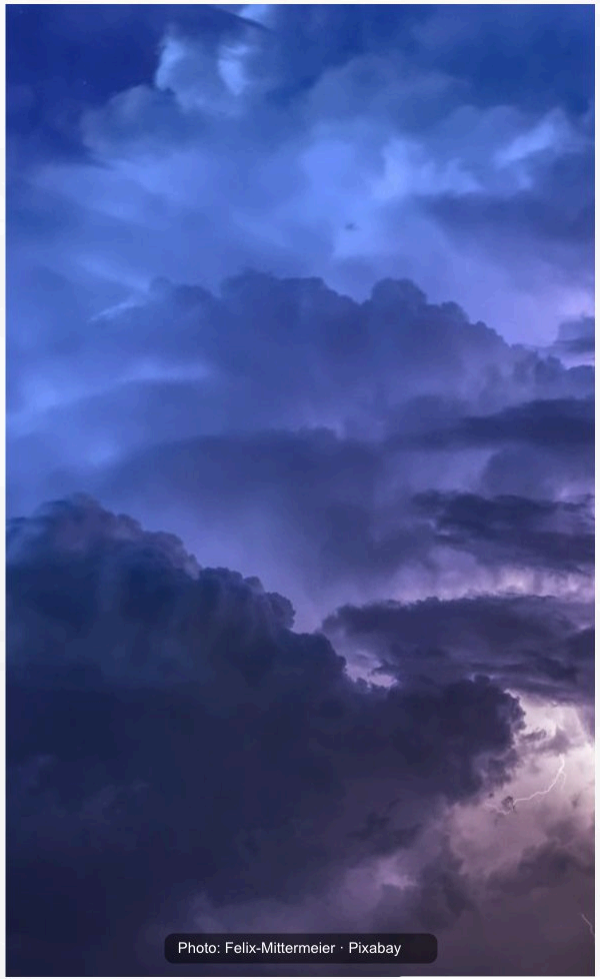


Photo: Felix-Mittermeier · Pixabay



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Vote for your favourite image

Which paints the loneliest feeling?

A Empty corridor like a desert

B Empty corridor was a desert

C Empty corridor sighed for friends

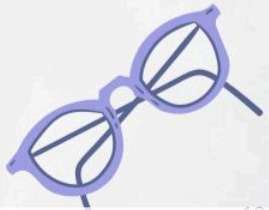
Vote with your hands, then explain why.

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Quick quiz

1. She runs like the wind. Simile, metaphor or personification?
2. The homework stared at me. Which device?
3. My teacher is a dragon. What feeling does it present?





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