Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Pictures with Words



Similes, metaphors and personification in action

About 50 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

Literal vs Figurative

Literal language gives the exact, usual **meaning** of words. Figurative language goes beyond that to create a strong **picture** or feeling for the reader.

- Simile - a **comparison** using like or as, for example as brave as a lion.
- Metaphor - saying one thing **is** another, for example her smile was the sun.
- Personification - giving **human** feelings or actions to a non-human thing, for example the wind whispered.



Task A

/3

Read the shoe advert and explain the hidden meaning in each line.

Step into Cloud Runners! These trainers are **lightning** on your feet. You will float down the corridor like a feather. The laces **grin** at everyone you pass. Do not walk - fly!

Question	It says...	I say...	And so...
What **comparison** is made in These trainers are lightning on your feet?	The trainers are lightning.	Lightning is very fast.	It is a metaphor: the trainers make you run very fast.
What **picture** do you get from float down the corridor like a feather?			
Why does the writer say the laces **grin**?			

Pairs That Stick

Cut, flip and match each technique to its meaning and example.

Key words

simile: comparison using like or as

personification: giving human qualities to a thing

figurative: language that paints a picture

metaphor: saying something is something else

literal: meaning exactly what it says

image: picture created in the reader's mind

Task B

Cut out the cards and find each matching pair of term and meaning.

Cut out the cards.

comparison using like or as	**like a feather**	**literal**	giving human actions to a non-human thing
simile	example of a simile	words used for picture or feeling	**metaphor**
figurative	 **personification**	saying one thing is another thing	exact, usual meaning of words

Think and Summarise

Organise your notes to show how word choice shapes meaning.

Task C

Use the cues to make brief notes while you discuss examples, then summarise.

Questions and key words	My notes
What is a simile and how do you spot it?	
What is a metaphor and how is it different?	
What is personification and what effect does it have?	
Why does vocabulary choice change meaning?	

Summary

Sum up how figurative language shapes meaning in 2-3 sentences.

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Find the Match

Match each example sentence to the technique it shows.

Task D

Example done for you

/4

Match each sentence to its correct label by writing the number in the circle.

1	He ran like the wind.	◯	figurative - creates a feeling
2	Her smile was the sun.	(1)	simile - uses like
3	The wind whispered through the trees.	◯	literal - exact meaning
4	The bag weighs two kilograms.	◯	personification - human action
5	The classroom buzzed with excitement.	◯	metaphor - says it is something else

Label and Complete

Label the techniques in pictures, then finish the writer's paragraph.

Task E

/3

Label each picture with the correct technique. Use the word bank: simile, metaphor, personification.

personification | simile | metaphor



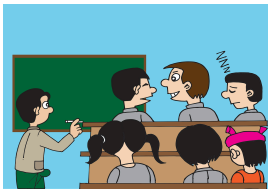
_____

The clouds glared down at us.



_____

He ran like the wind.



_____

The classroom was a zoo.

Task F

Example done for you

/4

Complete the paragraph using the word bank. Word bank: simile, metaphor, personification, vocabulary, meaning.

Personification | metaphor | vocabulary | ~~simile~~ | meaning

Good writers do not always use literal language. They paint a **clear picture** for the reader. A simile compares two things using like or as. A _____ says one thing is another to create a strong image. _____ gives human feelings to a thing that is not human. Each choice of _____ changes the _____ for the reader.

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can spot a simile, metaphor and personification. ☹ 😐 ☺

I can explain how word choice creates meaning. ☹ 😐 ☺

I can write my own examples to suit a reader. ☹ 😐 ☺

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Answer sheet: Pictures with Words

Task A

1. It is a metaphor: the trainers make you run very fast.
2. A simile: you move lightly and easily, as if you weigh almost nothing.
3. Personification: the laces seem happy and friendly, so the trainers look fun and cheerful.

Task B

simile = comparison using like or as
metaphor = saying one thing is another thing
personification = giving human actions to a non-human thing
literal = exact, usual meaning of words
figurative = words used for picture or feeling
like a feather = example of a simile

Task C

Answers will vary.

Task D

1. He ran like the wind. → simile - uses like
2. Her smile was the sun. → metaphor - says it is something else
3. The wind whispered through the trees. → personification - human action
4. The bag weighs two kilograms. → literal - exact meaning
5. The classroom buzzed with excitement. → figurative - creates a feeling

Task E

1. personification
2. simile
3. metaphor

Task F

Good writers do not always use literal language. They paint a clear picture for the reader. A [SIMILE] compares two things using like or as. A [METAPHOR] says one thing is another to create a strong image. [PERSONIFICATION] gives human feelings to a thing that is not human. Each choice of [VOCABULARY] changes the [MEANING] for the reader.

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