ELA | GRADES 4 TO 6 | STUDENT PACKET

Figurative Language

Simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, idiom, onomatopoeia, and alliteration

IN THIS PACKET YOU WILL LEARN TO

- ✓ Name seven kinds of figurative language
- ✓ Identify the kind used in a sentence
- ✓ Explain what a figure of speech means in context
- ✓ Write an original sentence for each kind

Name _____

Teacher _____

Class _____

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Seven Kinds to Know

LEARN

Read each kind with your teacher, and say the example out loud. Then write the kind that matches the last two sentences.

WORDS TO KNOW

simile	A comparison that uses like or as. Example: The lake was as still as glass.
metaphor	A comparison that says one thing is another. Example: The lake was glass.
personification	Giving a human action to a thing. Example: The wind knocked on the door.
hyperbole	An exaggeration used for effect. Example: I have a million pages of homework.
idiom	A phrase whose meaning is different from the separate words. Example: Hold your horses means wait.
onomatopoeia	A word that sounds like the noise it names, such as buzz, crash, or drip.
alliteration	The same beginning sound in nearby words. Example: six silent swans.

1. The thunder grumbled in the west. Kind: _____

2. Her backpack weighed a ton. Kind: _____

Simile and Metaphor

LEARN

Read the two examples, then tell what each figure of speech means in plain words.

SIMILE

"The hallway was as loud as a gym."

1. The word as tells you this is a simile.
2. The hallway is being compared to a gym.
3. The writer means the hallway was very loud.

The hallway was very loud.

METAPHOR

"The hallway was a gym."

1. This sentence says the hallway was a gym.
2. The hallway is still a hallway, so the writer is stretching the truth to make a point.
3. The meaning is the same as the simile: the hallway was very loud.

The hallway was very loud.

1. Rewrite this simile as a metaphor: The night was as dark as ink.

Name the Kind

GUIDED PRACTICE

Read each sentence and write the kind of figurative language it uses, using the word bank at the top of the page.

WORD BANK

hyperbole	simile	alliteration	onomatopoeia	metaphor	personification	idiom

1. The bacon went sizzle in the pan. Kind: _____
2. Mia has a heart of gold. Kind: _____
3. Break a leg before you walk on stage. Kind: _____
4. The leaves danced across the sidewalk. Kind: _____
5. He is as quick as a fox. Kind: _____
6. I told you a thousand times. Kind: _____

Identify Practice

PRACTICE ★

Write the kind of figurative language for each sentence. Then explain what the last sentence means in plain words.

1. The cat is a shadow in the grass. Kind: _____

2. Her laugh was like bells. Kind: _____

3. The clock raced toward noon. Kind: _____

4. Five fine foxes found a farm. Kind: _____

5. The door went bang in the wind. Kind: _____

6. What does this idiom mean: She spilled the beans about the party.

Identify and Explain

PRACTICE ★★

Write the kind of figurative language, then explain what the sentence means in plain words.

1. "The classroom was a beehive." Kind, then meaning:

2. "My backpack is going to break the floor." Kind, then meaning:

3. "The streetlights blinked awake." Kind, then meaning:

4. "Hit the books tonight." Kind, then meaning:

Sort the Sentences

CUT AND PASTE

Cut out the twelve sentence cards. Glue each card under simile, metaphor, or personification.

Simile	Metaphor	Personification

✂

time crawled	as busy as a bee	like a rocket
as brave as a lion	as cold as ice	the sun is a coin
the snow is a blanket	the kettle sang	her voice is velvet
the trees whispered	the city is a hive	the stars winked

Match the Idiom to Its Meaning

MATCH

Read each idiom on the left. Find the meaning on the right and write the letter on the line.

IDIOM		MEANING
1. hold your horses	_____	**A** start a conversation
2. spill the beans	_____	**B** tell a secret
3. hit the books	_____	**C** wait
4. piece of cake	_____	**D** cost a lot of money
5. under the weather	_____	**E** very rarely
6. break the ice	_____	**F** feeling sick
7. cost an arm and a leg	_____	**G** very easy
8. once in a blue moon	_____	**H** start studying

Figurative Language Riddle

RIDDLE

Write the first letter of the kind of figurative language in each sentence. Those letters, in order, answer the riddle.

What can figurative language draw in a reader's mind?

_____ _____ _____ _____
1 2 3 4

CODE TABLE

A	H	I	M	P	S
A	H	I	M	P	S

1. Five fine foxes found a farm. First letter of the kind: _____
2. Mia has a heart of gold. First letter of the kind: _____
3. Six silent swans swam. First letter of the kind: _____
4. The leaves danced on the walk. First letter of the kind: _____

Read a Short Story

APPLY

Read the scene, then answer each question in a complete sentence.

The Last Inning

by Trailpost

1 The field was a frying pan by the seventh inning. Sweat dripped, the crowd buzzed, and the pitcher stared at the batter as if the next pitch could decide the year. Time crawled while she waited, then the ball left her hand, a white comet, and the bat said crack.

2 "Hold your horses," the coach called, because two runners had already started toward home. The ball dropped into the glove like a stone into a well, and the inning was over.

1. Name one metaphor in paragraph 1 and tell what it means.

2. Name one simile in paragraph 2 and tell what it means.

3. What does the idiom hold your horses mean in this scene?

Write Your Own

WRITE ABOUT IT

Write one new sentence for each kind. Use the sentence starters if they help.

1. Write a simile about a rainy day.
   The rain was as _____ as _____.

2. Write a metaphor about a busy hallway.

3. Write a personification about the wind.

4. Write a hyperbole about homework.

Find the Mistake

ERROR ANALYSIS ★★

Each box shows a student's label for a sentence. Tell what is mixed up, then write the right kind or a stronger sentence.

Noah's label

Sentence: The night was as dark as ink.

Noah wrote: metaphor

1. Why is Noah's label mixed up, and what is the right kind?

2. Rewrite the sentence as a metaphor.

YOUR WORK

Asha's sentence

Asha wanted a hyperbole about a long line.

She wrote: The line was long.

3. Why is Asha's sentence missing the exaggeration, and how can she fix it?

4. Write a hyperbole about a long line.

YOUR WORK

Explain a Favorite Kind

WRITE ABOUT IT

Pick the kind that helps you the most. Explain how it works, then write a new example of your own.

1. Which kind of figurative language helps you the most, and how does it work?
   The kind that helps me is _____, because it _____.

2. Write a new example of that kind, then tell what it means in plain words.

Mixed Review

REVIEW

Write the kind for each sentence, then explain one meaning and write one new example.

1. The thunder grumbled. Kind: _____

2. I have a million chores. Kind: _____

3. The snow is a blanket. Kind: _____

4. What does this idiom mean: Once in a blue moon we have a snow day.

5. Write a simile about a quiet library.

Exit Tickets

CHECK

Your teacher will cut this page on the dotted line so each student gets one ticket. Name the kind and write one new example.

Figurative Language Exit Ticket

Name _____

1. The wind whispered. Kind: _____
2. He is as tall as a tree. Kind: _____
3. Write a metaphor about a storm.

_____

_____

Figurative Language Exit Ticket

Name _____

1. The wind whispered. Kind: _____
2. He is as tall as a tree. Kind: _____
3. Write a metaphor about a storm.

_____

_____

How Did I Do?

SELF-CHECK

Read each skill and put a check in the box that fits you best. Then answer the two questions at the bottom of the page.

Skill	I can do this on my own.	I can do this with a little help.	I am still learning this.
I can name seven kinds of figurative language.	☐	☐	☐
I can identify the kind used in a sentence.	☐	☐	☐
I can explain what a figure of speech means.	☐	☐	☐
I can write an original simile or metaphor.	☐	☐	☐
I can tell an idiom from a literal sentence.	☐	☐	☐

1. Which skill do you want to practice more, and why?

2. Which kind of figurative language is your favorite, and what is one example of it?