

## Figurative Language

**WebQuest Description:** Locating similes, metaphors, personification, onomatopoeia, and hyperbole

**Grade Level:** 6-8

**Curriculum:** English / Language Arts

**Keywords:** figurative language, metaphors, similes, personification, onomatopoeia, hyperbole

**Published On:** 2009-10-19 20:42:10

**Last Modified:** 2009-10-19 17:38:12

**WebQuest URL:** <http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=36159>

### Introduction

Are you prepared to be a detective? Authors have been using figurative language for centuries, making it somewhat difficult to understand what they mean at first glance. As a detective, it is your job to break the code and determine exactly what these authors are trying to convey. Like any detective, you must first do some prep work: researching some of the most common types of figurative language. Once you have an understanding of what you will be searching for, you will sift through your reading looking for evidence of figurative language. Remember: A successful detective is thorough, careful, and thinks outside the box!

### Tasks

Good morning, Detectives! Boss here. Are you ready to get to work? Your mission is to locate evidence of figurative language in your reading. Ultimately, you and your partner will create a Power Point presentation to brief the boss on the evidence you have located.

### Process

With your partner, read through these directions before clicking on any links. The first two types of figurative language you will research are similes and metaphors. Visit each page below. Write down a definition for similes and for metaphors. <http://www.rhlschool.com/eng3n25.htm> <http://www.rhlschool.com/eng3n26.htm> Now, watch the movie at: <http://www.brainpop.com/english/writing/similesandmetaphors/> At the end of the movie, click on the activity. Complete online with your partner. Then, print. The next type of figurative language you need to research is personification. Visit the pages below. Write down a definition for personification. [http://www.abcteach.com/free/p/posters\\_personification.pdf](http://www.abcteach.com/free/p/posters_personification.pdf) <http://www.imschools.org/cms/Units/Poetry/student2.htm> <http://www.abcteach.com/Writing/onomatopoeia.htm> Now, with your partner, choose a picture book from the library. Find at least five examples of personification. Write down each sentence that demonstrates personification. Highlight the words and phrases that show personification. The next type of figurative language you need to research is onomatopoeia. Visit the pages below. Write down a definition for onomatopoeia. <http://www.berghuis.co.nz/abiator/rdg/onomatopoeiahelp.html> <http://www.abcteach.com/Writing/onomatopoeia.htm> Do the worksheet on the website with your partner. Create a comic strip with at least four cels and four different uses of onomatopoeia. The last type of figurative language you will be learning about is hyperbole. Visit the page below. Write down a definition for hyperbole. <http://volweb.utk.edu/Schools/bedford/harrisms/hyperbole.htm> Now, finish this sentence with a hyperbole: "My teacher is so..." Draw a picture to go with your hyperbole. Write the hyperbole in a different color than the rest of the sentence. Now that you have done all the "leg work," you are ready to put together your presentation for the boss!

# Evaluation

Category and Score	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Very Good 3	Exemplary 4	Score
Simile & Metaphor	Presentation gives a definition of both simile and metaphor. May accurately explain the difference between the two. An example of each is given from the reading. Several spelling or grammatical errors.	Presentation gives a definition of both simile and metaphor. May accurately explain the difference between the two. An example of each is given from the reading. Some spelling or grammatical errors.	Presentation gives a definition of both simile and metaphor. Accurately explains the difference between the two. An example of each is given from the reading. Few spelling or grammatical errors.	Presentation gives a definition of both simile and metaphor. Accurately explains the difference between the two. An example of each is given from the reading. No spelling or grammatical errors.	%25
Personification	Presentation gives a definition of personification. At least one example is provided from the text OR a student-created example is provided that may go along with the story. Several spelling or grammatical errors.	Presentation gives a definition of personification. At least one example is provided from the text OR a student-created example is provided that may go along with the story. Some spelling or grammatical errors.	Presentation gives a definition of personification. At least one example is provided from the text OR a student-created example is provided that goes along with the story. Few spelling or grammatical errors.	Presentation gives a definition of personification. At least one example is provided from the text OR a student-created example is provided that goes along with the story. No spelling or grammatical errors.	%25
Onomatopoeia	Presentation gives a definition of onomatopoeia. At least one example is provided from the text OR a student-created example is provided that may go along with the story. Several spelling or grammatical errors.	Presentation gives a definition of onomatopoeia. At least one example is provided from the text OR a student-created example is provided that may go along with the story. Some spelling or grammatical errors.	Presentation gives a definition of onomatopoeia. At least one example is provided from the text OR a student-created example is provided that goes along with the story. Few spelling or grammatical errors.	Presentation gives a definition of onomatopoeia. At least one example is provided from the text OR a student-created example is provided that goes along with the story. No spelling or grammatical errors.	%25
Hyperbole	Presentation gives a definition of hyperbole. At least one example is provided from the text OR a student-created example is provided that may go along with the story. Several spelling or grammatical errors.	Presentation gives a definition of hyperbole. At least one example is provided from the text OR a student-created example is provided that may go along with the story. Some spelling or grammatical errors.	Presentation gives a definition of hyperbole. At least one example is provided from the text OR a student-created example is provided that goes along with the story. Few spelling or grammatical errors.	Presentation gives a definition of hyperbole. At least one example is provided from the text OR a student-created example is provided that goes along with the story. No spelling or grammatical errors.	%25
				Total Score	%100

# Conclusion

Good work, Detectives! As you have learned, there are many different types of figurative language. Similes, metaphors, personification, onomatopoeia, and hyperbole all add to the richness of language. Without these figures of speech, reading would be monotonous and boring! Can you think of some other examples of figurative language? What kind of imagery does figurative language evoke? Here are some other links for you to expand and apply your new-found knowledge!

<http://www.quia.com/hm/80390.html>  
<http://www.newton.k12.ks.us/tech/fling3.html>  
<http://www.kidskconnect.com/subject-index/20-language-arts/343-figurative-language.html>

Figurative language is everywhere you look! Keep your eyes and ears open for these wonderful literary devices!

# Teacher Page

**Focus:** The focus of this webquest is figurative language, specifically: similes & metaphors, personification, onomatopoeia, and hyperbole.  
**Objective:** The students will identify similes, metaphors, personification, onomatopoeia, and hyperbole within the novel they are reading.  
**Indiana Academic Standard:** English/Language Arts:6.3.4- Define how tone or meaning are conveyed in poetry through word choice, figurative language, sentence structure, line length, punctuation, rhythm, alliteration (repetition of sounds, such as wild and woolly or threatening throngs), and rhyme.  
 6.3.7- Explain the effects of common literary devices, such as symbolism, imagery, or metaphor, in a variety of fictional and nonfictional texts.

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Notes: This webquest can be taught

using any novel that is being read in class. The webquest is meant to be a partner activity, but can be used done by individuals. The webquest will take several periods for completion. At least one 45-minute period should be devoted to each section of the webquest. The final project (Power Point presentation) will take at least two 45-minute periods.

