

The Magic of Words with Pip

Learning objective: To identify and understand the effect of similes, metaphors, and personification in a text.

Read the story about Pip the caterpillar and answer the questions that follow. Look closely at how Pip describes the world around him.

Pip the caterpillar loved collecting words as much as he loved munching on fresh green leaves. To Pip, the garden was not just a place to live; it was a treasure chest of wonders. One sunny Tuesday, Pip decided to describe his home using figurative language to make his diary entries more exciting.

He looked up at the towering sunflowers and wrote, 'The yellow petals are like bright golden umbrellas shielding me from the rain.' He smiled, knowing that a simile makes a picture in the reader's mind. Next, he noticed the gentle breeze. Instead of saying it was windy, he wrote, 'The wind whispered secrets through the willow trees.' By giving the wind human qualities, Pip used personification to bring the garden to life.

Finally, Pip looked at the sparkling dew on a blade of grass. 'The dew is a diamond,' he scribbled. This metaphor was his favourite because it turned a tiny drop of water into something precious. Pip felt proud; his words had turned a simple garden into a magical kingdom.

Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Personification · Figurative · Imagery

1. What did Pip compare the yellow petals to in his diary? (1 mark)

2. Which specific metaphor did Pip use to describe the dew on the grass? (1 mark)

3. Why did Pip decide to use figurative language instead of just describing the garden normally? (2 marks)

4. How does the phrase 'the wind whispered secrets' change how the reader feels about the garden? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Pip is a talented writer? Use evidence from the text to justify your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the garden as Pip described it, including the 'golden umbrella' sunflowers and the 'diamond' dew drops.



Extension challenge: Can you write two sentences of your own about a park? Use one simile and one piece of personification.