

Max and Zara's Figurative Language Toolkit

Learning objective: To identify and use a range of figurative language techniques to enhance descriptive writing.

Key Vocabulary

Use this vocabulary reference that to help you paint pictures with your words. Max and Zara have grouped these terms to help you choose the best technique for your writing. Look closely at how these tools change the mood of a sentence.

Simile A comparison between two things using 'like' or 'as'.	Metaphor A comparison stating that one thing is another.	Personification Giving human qualities or actions to an object or animal.
Onomatopoeia Words that imitate the natural sounds associated with objects or actions.	Alliteration The repetition of the same letter or sound at the beginning of words.	Hyperbole An extreme exaggeration used for emphasis.
Imagery Language that appeals to the five senses to create a mental picture.	Expanded noun Adding adjectives and prepositional phrases to a noun.	Emotive language Words chosen to create a strong emotional response.
Sibilance A hissing sound created by repeating 's' or 'z' sounds.	Assonance Repetition of vowel sounds within words.	Oxymoron Combining two contradictory words.
Idiom A phrase where the meaning cannot be deduced from the literal words.	Pathetic fallacy Giving human emotions to weather or natural elements.	Adverbial phrase A group of words acting as an adverb.
Explain why an action is important.	Compare and contrast.	Justify your answer. Does using hyperbole make your writing more persuasive?
What might happen next?	Create your own simile.	Choose two techniques to describe a scene.