

Mastering Figurative Language with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To identify and explain the effect of similes, metaphors, and personification in descriptive writing.

Read the passage below carefully. Look for examples of figurative language where Max the Monkey describes his jungle home. Answer the questions to show your understanding of how these techniques change the way we read.

The jungle was a emerald sea, swaying gently as the morning breeze whispered secrets through the ancient ferns. Max the Monkey sat on a branch that acted as a sturdy bridge between the trees. He felt as quick as a lightning bolt as he swung through the canopy. Above him, the sun was a golden coin tossed into the vast blue sky. The flowers danced with joy as the rain began to fall, turning the path into a slippery slide of mud.

Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Personification · Vivid imagery · Comparison · Characteristics

1. Identify the simile in the passage and explain what two things are being compared. Why does the author use this comparison? (2 marks)

2. Find the metaphor describing the sun. If the author had written 'the sun was bright', how would the tone of the sentence change? (2 marks)

3. Locate an example of personification. Explain how giving human actions to a non-human object helps the reader visualise the scene. (2 marks)

4. Compare the 'emerald sea' metaphor to the 'sturdy bridge' metaphor. How do these help the reader understand the layout of the jungle? (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If Max were to describe a storm, would personification or a simile be more effective at making the reader feel nervous? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the jungle described in the passage. Include the 'golden coin' sun and the 'dancing' flowers. Label your drawing with the figurative language techniques you used to create your scene.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) about a busy marketplace. You must include at least one simile, one metaphor, and one example of personification. What might happen if you removed all the figurative language from your paragraph? Explain why figurative language is essential for creative writing.