

Painting Pictures with Words: A Figurative Language Scaffold

Learning objective: To use figurative language, including personification, similes, and metaphors, to create vivid imagery in descriptive writing.

Use the prompts below to build your own descriptive setting. Remember to use your senses to describe the environment. Think about how Max the monkey might see the world as a giant puzzle, or how Zara the zebra might spot patterns in the landscape as you write.

The ancient forest stood waiting, its gnarled trees acting like silent sentinels guarding the secrets of the woodland floor.

Word bank: as silent as · danced like · a blanket of · whispered · furious wind · shimmered · in contrast · furthermore · similarly · the golden sun · cautiously · vibrant

1. Personification: Describe how the wind or the trees move in your setting. Start your sentence with: The wind... (2 marks)

2. Simile: Use a simile to describe a specific object or animal you can see. Start your sentence with: The [object/animal] was as [adjective] as... (2 marks)

3. Metaphor: Create a metaphor to describe the sky or the ground. Start your sentence with: The [sky/ground] was a... (2 marks)

4. Sensory Details: Describe a sound or a smell in your setting using an adjective. Start your sentence with: A [sound/smell] hung in the air like... (2 marks)

5. Review: Read back your paragraph. Which piece of figurative language is your favourite, and why does it help the reader imagine your setting? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Write a short paragraph describing a stormy night using at least two examples of personification and one metaphor. Can you incorporate the word 'menacing'?