Mastering Figurative Language with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To identify and use figurative language, including similes, metaphors, and personification, to improve descriptive writing.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of figurative language to explain, identify, or create descriptive sentences. Remember to use your best handwriting.

Max the monkey and Zara the zebra are exploring the forest. Max says, 'The river is a silver ribbon winding through the trees.' Zara replies, 'The wind whispers secrets to the leaves, and the sun shines as bright as a golden coin.'

Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Personification · Comparison · Imagery · Adjective

1. Identify the type of figurative language used in this sentence: 'The wind whispers secrets to the leaves.' Explain how you know. (2 marks)

2. Max says, 'The river is a silver ribbon.' Is this a simile or a metaphor? Explain the difference between these two devices. (2 marks)

3. Write your own simile to describe how fast a cheetah runs. Use the word 'as' or 'like'. (1 mark)

4. Rewrite the following sentence using personification: 'The flowers grew in the garden.' (2 marks)

5. Look at the phrase: 'The sun shines as bright as a golden coin.' Why does this comparison help the reader understand the scene better? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a 'grumpy old mountain' using personification. Give the mountain a face and show it doing something human-like, such as wearing a snowy scarf or frowning at the clouds.

Extension challenge: Choose an object in your classroom. Write three sentences about it: one using a simile, one using a metaphor, and one using personification.