

Mastering Figurative Language with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To identify, define, and evaluate the impact of figurative language, including similes, metaphors, personification, and alliteration, to enhance descriptive writing.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of figurative language. Read the term on the front, recall its definition and an example, then flip to check your understanding. Max the monkey and Zara the zebra use these tools to make their stories sparkle!

Simile

A comparison of two different things using the words 'like' or 'as'. Example: Zara's stripes were as bold as a lightning bolt.

Metaphor

A direct comparison where one thing is said to be another to highlight a shared quality. Example: The library was a treasure chest of ancient wisdom.

Personification

Giving human qualities, emotions, or actions to non-human objects or ideas. Example: The wind whistled a mournful tune through the trees.

Alliteration

The repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words. Example: The brave bear balanced beautifully.

Onomatopoeia

Words that imitate the natural sounds of a thing. Example: The sausages sizzled and popped in the pan.

Hyperbole

An extreme, deliberate exaggeration used for emphasis or effect, not meant to be taken literally. Example: I have told you a million times to tidy your desk!

Imagery

Descriptive language that appeals to the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) to create a vivid picture in the reader's mind.

Explain why an author might choose to use a metaphor instead of a simile.

A metaphor is often more powerful and direct, forcing the reader to imagine the subject literally becoming the object, which can create a stronger impact.

Compare and contrast Personification and Onomatopoeia.

Both are descriptive techniques. Personification gives human traits to non-living things (abstract), while Onomatopoeia mimics the actual sound an object makes (auditory).

Justify your answer: Is 'The sun smiled down on the beach' an example of personification?

Yes, because the sun is an inanimate object being given the human action of 'smiling', which suggests a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

What might happen if a writer overused hyperbole in a short story?

The writing might lose its credibility or sincerity, making the characters seem untrustworthy or making the narrative tone feel like a comedy rather than a serious piece of prose.

Create an original example of alliteration using a character name and an action.

(Example) Max the monkey munched many magnificent mangoes.