

Mastering Figurative Language with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To identify, explain, and compose examples of figurative language, including similes, metaphors, personification, and onomatopoeia, to enhance descriptive writing.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of figurative language to analyse, improve, and create sentences that paint a vivid picture for the reader. Ensure your explanations justify why a specific technique is effective.

Max the monkey and Zara the zebra are exploring a mysterious, ancient forest. Use their observations to complete the tasks below.

Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Personification · Onomatopoeia · Hyperbole · Alliteration · Vivid · Imagery · Comparison

1. Max says, 'The ancient trees are silent sentinels guarding the forest path.' Identify the figurative language used here and explain what it suggests about the trees. (2 marks)

2. Zara notices a stream and says, 'The water danced over the smooth pebbles.' Which technique is used in this sentence? Explain why this is an effective way to describe the movement of water. (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the following simple sentence using a simile to make it more descriptive: 'The monkey climbed the tree quickly.' (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast a metaphor and a simile. Give one original example of each based on a nature theme. (3 marks)

5. Explain why an author might choose to use onomatopoeia in a story about a thunderstorm. Provide two examples of words that could be used. (2 marks)

6. Justify this statement: 'Personification helps a reader empathise with non-human objects.' Use an example involving a gust of wind to support your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Zara the zebra is painting a landscape. Incorporate visual elements of figurative language, such as 'angry clouds' (personification) or a 'river that is a ribbon of silver' (metaphor).



Extension challenge: Imagine you are writing a poem about a sunrise. Compose a short stanza (4 lines) that includes at least one metaphor and one instance of alliteration. Then, explain what might happen to the 'mood' of your poem if you replaced your metaphor with a literal description.