

Mastering Figurative Language with Leo the Lion

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

Read the short story below featuring Leo the Lion. Underline the examples of figurative language you find, then answer the questions to show your understanding.

Leo the Lion sat upon the savanna, his golden mane glowing like a setting sun. The wind whispered secrets through the tall, golden grass, telling tales of distant lands. To Leo, the vast plains were a giant, emerald quilt stretched out beneath the sky. He stood up, his paws as heavy as iron weights against the parched earth, and began his patrol. The ancient trees stretched their gnarled arms toward the clouds, watching over the land like silent guardians. Leo felt the rhythm of the earth beating beneath his feet, a drum of life that never stopped.

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

1. Identify one simile from the text and explain what two things are being compared. (2 marks)

2. Find an example of personification in the passage. Why does the author use this technique? (2 marks)

3. The author describes the plains as a 'giant, emerald quilt'. Is this a metaphor or a simile? Explain how you know. (2 marks)

4. What effect does the phrase 'the wind whispered secrets' have on the mood of the story? (2 marks)

5. Think of your own original metaphor to describe the sun. Write it down below. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Leo the Lion standing on the savanna. Try to include one of the metaphors or similes from the text in your illustration, such as the trees acting as silent guardians or the sun glowing like a setting sun.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph of three to four sentences describing a storm using at least one metaphor and one piece of personification.