

Mastering Figurative Language with Zara the Zebra

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

Follow the prompts below to write a short descriptive scene about a bustling, magical marketplace. Use the word bank to help you link your ideas and ensure you include at least one example of personification, one metaphor, and one simile in your writing.

The ancient marketplace stirred into life as the first rays of light crept over the cobblestones.

Word bank: As silent as a shadow · Like a shimmering tapestry · Whispering winds · Furthermore · In addition · Consequently · Painting a vivid picture · The morning sun danced

1. The Setting: Describe the market as it wakes up. How does the environment seem to 'act' like a person? Start with: The marketplace stretched its sleepy limbs as... (2 marks)

2. The Stalls: Describe the colourful goods on display using a metaphor. Start with: The fruit stalls were a rainbow explosion of... (2 marks)

3. The People: Describe a character moving through the crowd using a simile. Start with: The merchant moved through the busy throng like... (2 marks)

4. The Atmosphere: Use an expanded noun phrase to describe the sounds of the market. Start with: A symphony of clattering pots and... (2 marks)

5. The Conclusion: Summarise the scene using an adverbial to show how the day is progressing. Start with: Gradually, the chaotic energy began to... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Choose one paragraph from your writing and rewrite it to include a different type of figurative language. Can you transform your simile into a metaphor?