

⚡ PREPARE

CONCEPT Figurative language involves words that are used creatively to have meaning beyond their literal use. Speakers and authors use figurative language to communicate more effectively. As readers develop an awareness of figurative expressions in day-to-day communication, they improve their listening and reading comprehension.

VOCABULARY figurative language, imagery, metaphor, simile

MATERIALS Lesson reproducibles

⚡ INSTRUCT**ANCHOR CHART** [Display Reproducible page 1.]

- Introduce the **Concept** of this lesson. (See above.)
- Explain that authors sometimes use figurative language in their writing. They use words creatively in order to give meaning to the words beyond their literal meaning.
- Review the terms **figurative language, metaphor, and simile** on the **Anchor Chart**, and direct students to the visual examples.
- Read and discuss the *So, what's in it for me?* section with students. (Optional: Review this section when the lesson is complete to reinforce the skill.)

⚡ PRACTICE**[Display Reproducible page 2, Part A.]**

- Read the directions with students, and provide support as they read the statements and select their answers.
- Prompt students: *What image comes to mind when you read the statement? What type of figure of speech is this? What are the two things that are being compared in this statement?*

[Display Reproducible page 2, Part B.]

- Read the directions with students, and provide support as they read the statements and make their connections.
- Note: Students may struggle with the word *theme*. If needed, provide a definition: *The word theme means the central message or big idea in a story or a poem.*
- Prompt students: *What is being compared in this section? Which type of figure of speech can you find in this section? What is a literal meaning for the figure of speech you found?*

[Display Reproducible page 3, Part C.]

- Read the directions with students, and provide support as they read the statements.
- Note: Students may struggle with the word *stanza*. If needed, provide a definition: *The word stanza means a group of lines in a poem.*
- Prompt students: *Which images come to mind when you read the stanza? Which two things are being compared in this stanza?*

ANSWER KEY FOR TEACHER REFERENCE

[Blank student copies are found on Reproducible pages 2, 3, & 4.]

[Reproducible page 2, Part A]

	Is the figurative language a simile or metaphor?	What two objects are being compared?
1. I need to clean my room. It's a pig pen.	☐ simile ☒ metaphor	<u>my room</u> and <u>a pig pen</u>
2. The clouds are white and puffy. They look as soft as cotton.	☒ simile ☐ metaphor	<u>the clouds</u> and <u>cotton</u>
3. I learned so much this year. My brain is a computer.	☐ simile ☒ metaphor	<u>my brain</u> and <u>a computer</u>
4. A van ran over my hat. Now it's as flat as a pancake.	☒ simile ☐ metaphor	<u>my hat</u> and <u>a pancake</u>
5. My baby brother cries a lot. It is as loud as a fire alarm.	☒ simile ☐ metaphor	<u>my brother's crying</u> and <u>a fire alarm</u>

[Reproducible page 3, Part B]

- ¹ It's winter. The air is as cold as a meat freezer. Deep snow covers the ground.
- ² The snow sparkles. White snow covers the tree branches. A stream glistens under the ice. Everything is a painting.
- ³ The only sound comes from your breathing. The quiet is relaxing. Everything feels easier, like weights have been lifted from your shoulders.
- ⁴ As you walk, the cold air fades. You soon feel so warm that you are a crackling fire. Walking through a natural setting is wonderful.

Where is the figurative language?	What kind of figurative language is it?	What does it mean?
section 1	☒ simile ☐ metaphor	<u>It is very cold outside.</u>
section 2	☐ simile ☒ metaphor	<u>Nature is a work of art.</u>
section 3	☒ simile ☐ metaphor	<u>You feel more relaxed.</u>
section 4	☐ simile ☒ metaphor	<u>You are warm now, not cold.</u>

[Reproducible page 4, Part C]

1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

[Reproducible page 5, Part D]

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. T

ANCHOR CHART

Figurative Language

Figurative language is words used creatively so they don't mean what they usually mean.

simile
a comparison
of unlike things
using like or as



metaphor
a comparison
of unlike things
not using like or as

imagery
the use of words
to create a
picture in the
reader's mind



Have you ever been shipwrecked and found yourself surrounded by miles and miles of ocean? (Neither have I.) But, if you read about someone who was "clinging to a piece of driftwood like it was the last available ticket to a sold-out concert," you might say to yourself, "Ahhh, I get it now." Or, if your friend tells you that your new hat looks like "a chicken in a tank top," you'll know it's probably not a compliment.

That's the thing about figurative language. It connects speakers and listeners or writers and readers. Like a bridge. (See what I did there?)

⚡ PRACTICE

A. Read each statement. First, identify the type of figurative language in each statement by indicating either simile or metaphor. Then, identify the two objects being compared. Write your answer on the lines provided.

	Is the figurative language a simile or metaphor?	What two objects are being compared?
1. I need to clean my room. It's a pig pen.	☐ simile ☐ metaphor	_____ and _____
2. The clouds are white and puffy. They look as soft as cotton.	☐ simile ☐ metaphor	_____ and _____
3. I learned so much this year. My brain is a computer.	☐ simile ☐ metaphor	_____ and _____
4. A van ran over my hat. Now it's as flat as a pancake.	☐ simile ☐ metaphor	_____ and _____
5. My baby brother cries a lot. It is as loud as a fire alarm.	☐ simile ☐ metaphor	_____ and _____

⚡ PRACTICE (CONTINUED)

B. Read the story, and underline the figurative language in each section. Then, identify the type of figurative language in each statement by checking off either simile or metaphor. Finally, using the sentences in the word box, write the literal, or real, meaning on the lines provided.



¹ It's winter. The air is as cold as a meat freezer. Deep snow covers the ground.

² The snow sparkles. White snow covers the tree branches. A stream glistens under the ice. Everything is a painting.

³ The only sound comes from your breathing. The quiet is relaxing. Everything feels easier, like weights have been lifted from your shoulders.

⁴ As you walk, the cold air fades. You soon feel so warm that you are a crackling fire. Walking through a natural setting is wonderful.

You feel hot now,
not cold.

It is very cold
outside.

You feel more
relaxed.

Nature is a work
of art.

Where is the figurative language?	What kind of figurative language is it?	What does it mean?
section 1	☐ simile ☐ metaphor	_____ _____
section 2	☐ simile ☐ metaphor	_____ _____
section 3	☐ simile ☐ metaphor	_____ _____
section 4	☐ simile ☐ metaphor	_____ _____

⚡ PRACTICE (CONTINUED)

C. Read each stanza. Then, identify what the poet is comparing by circling the two correct images for each stanza.

Percussion Blues

by Ana Bond

¹I signed up to play the drums...

² A snare,
as crisp and light
as a new bag of chips.

1.



³ A bass,
as full and rich
as a bowlful of ice cream.

2.



⁴ Cymbals,
as sharp and sour
as homemade lemonade.

3.



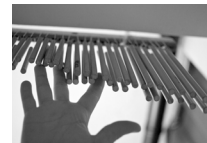
⁵ They gave me something else...
A glockenspiel,
as unknown and forgettable
as mystery meat in the cafeteria.

4.



⁶ The chimes,
as weak and unsatisfying
as cucumber soup in wintertime.

5.



⁷ And a triangle,
the raw cauliflower
of the percussion section.

6.



⁸ Maybe I should have signed up for
a cooking class.

PRACTICE (CONTINUED)

D. Use the poem above to decide if the statements are true or false. Write **T** or **F** in the space provided.

1. _____ In stanza 2, a simile compares a snare drum to a new bag of chips because both are crisp and light, in either texture or sound.
2. _____ In stanza 4, a simile compares cymbals to homemade lemonade because both are sharp and sour, in either taste or sound.
3. _____ In stanza 6, a simile compares chimes to cucumber soup in the winter because both are comforting and satisfying, in either taste or sound.
4. _____ The figurative language in this poem includes examples of similes and metaphors that relate to musical instruments and characteristics of food.