

SMART™ Lesson

Exploring Figurative Language in Poetry

Poems are full of figurative language, which helps create vivid images and convey complex ideas. Figurative language is language in which an expression is used to refer to something that it does not literally denote in order to suggest a similarity. Let's explore the different types of figurative language in poetry:

Simile

A simile is a comparison using "like" or "as." For example:

She dances like a feather in the wind.

What is being compared? _____

What do you think the poet is trying to say?

What does the use of a simile add to the poem?

Metaphor

A metaphor is a comparison in which one thing is said to be another. For example:

His eyes were a stormy sea.

What is being compared? _____

What do you think the poet is trying to say?

What does the use of a metaphor add to the poem?

Personification

Personification is when human qualities are given to non-human things. For example:

The sun smiled down on the children.

What is personified in this line? _____

What do you think the poet is trying to say?

How does personification help to create an image in the reader's mind?

Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words in a line of poetry. For example:

The buzzing bees bounced from flower to flower.

What sound is repeated in this line? _____

What does the use of alliteration add to the poem?

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is the use of words that sound like the thing they describe. For example:

The wind whistled through the trees.

What is an example of onomatopoeia in this line? _____

What effect does the use of onomatopoeia have on the reader?

Now that you know about these different types of figurative language, look for examples of them in the poems you read. How does the use of figurative language make the poem more interesting and engaging?

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