

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Poetic Devices- Figurative Language, Sound Devices, and Imagery**

**I. FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE** communicates ideas beyond the literal meaning of the words. The words in a figurative expression are not literally true; rather, they create impressions in the reader's mind that can make description come alive and make unfamiliar ideas easier to understand. *The types of figurative language we will review are simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole.*

1. A **simile** is a figure of speech that compares two things that have something in common. A simile uses the word *like* or *as* to make the comparison.

**Example:** "The sun spun like a tossed coin."

**Explanation:** Here, the way the sun spins is being compared to the way a coin spins to describe the way the sun looks as it is setting. It is a simile because it uses like to make the comparison.

**\*Practice:** Write a simile using one of the following sentence starters (or write your own).

The baby's screams were like a \_\_\_\_\_. **OR** The girl/boy was as \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_. **OR** After \_\_\_\_\_, I felt as if \_\_\_\_\_.

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2. A **metaphor** is a figure of speech that compares two things that have something in common. A metaphor does NOT use *like* or *as* to make the comparison. Instead, it states it directly.

**Example:** "Hold fast to dreams for when dreams go/ life is a barren field frozen with snow."

**Explanation:** Here, the speaker is comparing the feeling of losing your dreams to the feeling of being in a lonely, frozen field of snow to show that when you let go of your dreams, your life has no meaning. It is a metaphor because it does NOT use like or as to make the comparison.

**\*Practice:** Use the simile you wrote above and turn it into a metaphor by taking away the *like* or *as*.

The baby's screams were a \_\_\_\_\_. **OR** The girl/boy was a \_\_\_\_\_. **OR** After \_\_\_\_\_, I was a \_\_\_\_\_.

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3. **Personification** is a figure of speech in which an object, animal, or idea is given human characteristics.

**Example:** "When I opened the door/I found the vine leaves/ speaking among themselves in abundant/ whispers."

**Explanation:** Here the vine leaves are being given the human quality of whispering. The speaker wants to give the vine leaves a mysterious aura as if they are a group of people sharing secrets.

**\*Practice:** Use an action verb to personify (give a human quality to) one of these non-human things.

The storm \_\_\_\_\_. **OR** The flowers \_\_\_\_\_. **OR** The tree's \_\_\_\_\_. **OR** The car \_\_\_\_\_ when I \_\_\_\_\_.

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4. **Hyperbole** is the use of exaggeration as a rhetorical device or figure of speech. It may be used to evoke strong feelings or to create a strong impression, but is not meant to be taken literally.

**Example:** "I'm bigger than the entire earth/More powerful than the sea/Though a billion have tried/Not one could stop me."

**Explanation:** There is no way he could be bigger than the earth or more powerful than the sea, but the reader understands through this exaggeration (hyperbole) that the speaker is trying to show his strength.

**\*Practice:** Write a hyperbole using one of the following sentence starters (or make up your own).

I'm so hungry that \_\_\_\_\_. **OR** He's taller than \_\_\_\_\_. **OR** She's louder than \_\_\_\_\_.

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**1. From “Grenade” by Bruno Mars**

Cause what you don't understand is

**I'd catch a grenade for you** (yeah, yeah, yeah)

**Throw my hand on a blade for you** (yeah, yeah, yeah)

**I'd jump in front of a train for you** (yeah, yeah, yeah)

**You know I'd do anything for you** (yeah, yeah, yeah)

**I would go through all this pain**

**Take a bullet straight through my brain**

**Yes, I would die for you, baby**

But you won't do the same

\_\_\_ Which type of figurative language is used **here**?

- a. simile    b. metaphor    c. personification    d. hyperbole

**2. From “Sweet Dream” by Beyonce**

**You can be a sweet dream or a beautiful nightmare**

Either way I, don't wanna wake up from you

**Sweet dream or a beautiful nightmare**

Somebody pinch me, your love's too good to be true

\_\_\_ Which type of figurative language is used **here**?

- a. simile    b. metaphor    c. personification    d. hyperbole

**3. From “The Cult of Personality” by Living Colour**

Look in my eyes, what do you see?

the Cult of Personality

*I know your anger, I know your dreams*

I've been everything you wanna be ohhh...

I'm the Cult of Personality

**Like Mussolini and Kennedy**

**I'm the Cult of Personality (3x)**

Neon lights, Nobel Prize

**When a mirror speaks, the reflection lies**

You won't have to follow me

Only you can set me free

\_\_\_ Which type of figurative language is used in **stanza 1**?

- a. simile    b. metaphor    c. personification    d. hyperbole

\_\_\_ Which type of figurative language is used in **stanza 2**?

- a. simile    b. metaphor    c. personification    d. hyperbole

**4. “I Love You Like a Love Song” by Selena Gomez**

**I, I love you like a love song, baby**

**I, I love you like a love song, baby**

**I, I love you like a love song, baby**

And I keep hitting re-peat-peat-peat-peat-peat

\_\_\_ Which type of figurative language is used **here**?

- a. simile    b. metaphor    c. personification    d. hyperbole

**5. From “Just a Dream” by Nelly**

I was thinking bout her, thinkin 'bout me

Thinkin 'bout us, what we gon' be

Open my eyes yeah, it was only just a dream

So I travelled back, down that road

Will she come back, no one knows

I realize yeah, it was only Just A Dream

**I was at the top and now its like I'm in the basement**

Number one spot and now she find her a replacement

\_\_\_ Which type of figurative language is used **here**?

- a. simile    b. metaphor    c. personification    d. hyperbole

**6. From “Dynamite” by Taio Cruz**

Cause we gon' rock this club, We gon' go all night,

**We gon' light it up, Like it's dynamite.**

\_\_\_ Which type of figurative language is used **here**?

- a. simile    b. metaphor    c. personification    d. hyperbole

**7. From “Firework” by Katy Perry**

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag

Drifting through the wind

Wanting to start again?

Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin

Like a house of cards

One blow from caving in? ...

Cause **baby you're a firework**

*Come on show 'em what you're worth*

*Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!"*

*As you shoot across the sky-y-y*

\_\_\_ Which type of figurative language is used in **stanza 1-2**?

- a. simile    b. metaphor    c. personification    d. hyperbole

\_\_\_ Which type of figurative language is used in **stanza 3**?

- a. simile    b. metaphor    c. personification    d. hyperbole

**8. From “Hungry Eyes” by Eric Carmen**

I've been meaning to tell you

I've got this feelin' that won't subside

I look at you and I fantasize, darlin' tonight

Now I've got you in my sights

**With these hungry eyes**

One look at you and I can't disguise

**I've got hungry eyes**

I feel the magic between you and I

\_\_\_ Which type of figurative language is used **here**?

- a. simile    b. metaphor    c. personification    d. hyperbole

**II. SOUND DEVICES:** Sound devices, also known as "musical devices" make poetry a special art form. The types of poetic sound devices are listed below. The use of these devices is part of the craftsmanship of poetry - this is what makes language sound beautiful. It also makes certain poems and songs memorable.

<p><b>Sound Device Definitions:</b></p>	<p><b>*Practice:</b> Dr. Seuss's stories are narrative poems. Watch "Fox in Socks" by Dr. Seuss and answer the following questions.</p>
<p><b>1. Onomatopoeia:</b> The use of words that sound like what they mean, such as <i>zing</i>, <i>buzz</i>, and <i>crunch</i>.</p> <p>*Watch the "Onomatopoeia" video &amp; list the onomatopoeia.</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Clocks on fox tick.          Clocks on Knox tock.          Six sick bricks tick.          Six sick chicks tock.</p> <p>Circle the <b>onomatopoeia</b> words in the example above.</p>
<p><b>2. Repetition:</b> Repeats certain <u>words</u>, <u>lines</u> or <u>phrases</u> in the poem.</p>	<p><u>Look, sir.</u> <u>Look, sir.</u> Mr. Knox, <u>sir.</u>  <u>Let's do</u> tricks with bricks and blocks, <u>sir.</u>  <u>Let's do</u> tricks with chicks and clocks, <u>sir.</u></p> <p>What words are being <b>repeated</b> in the example from "Fox in Socks"? _____</p>
<p><b>3. Alliteration:</b> A type of <b>repetition</b> where <b>consonant</b> sounds are repeated at the <b>beginning</b> of words. <b>Consonants</b> are: <i>b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z</i></p> <p>*Watch the "Extreme Alliteration" video. Which consonant is repeated? _____</p>	<p>Who sees who sew whose new socks, sir?          You see Sue sew Sue's new socks, sir.</p> <p>What <b>consonant</b> sound is being repeated at the <u>beginning</u> of words?          _____ (&lt; Write it here AND circle it every time it is used)</p>
<p><b>4. Consonance:</b> A type of <b>repetition</b> where <u>consonant</u> sounds are repeated <u>within words</u> (and at the end of words). <b>Consonants</b> are: <i>b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z</i></p>	<p>First, I'll make a quick trick brick stack.          Then I'll make a quick trick block stack.          You can make a quick trick chick stack.          You can make a quick trick clock stack.</p> <p>What <b>consonant</b> sound is repeated in the <u>middle</u> or <u>end</u> of words?          _____ (&lt; Write it here AND circle it every time it is used)</p>
<p><b>5. Assonance:</b> A type of <b>repetition</b> where <u>vowel</u> sounds (<i>a, e, i, o, u</i>) are repeated <u>within words</u></p> <p><b>Note:</b> This is all about the <b>sound</b>, <u>not</u> the letter</p> <p>Ex. <u>L</u>uke <u>L</u>uck takes licks in lakes <u>du</u>ck likes. I can't blab such blibber bl<u>u</u>ubber!          My <u>tu</u>ngue isn't made of <u>ru</u>ubber.          Explanation: <u>L</u>uke, <u>L</u>uck, and bl<u>u</u>ubber have the letter "u" in them, but the "u" in <u>L</u>uck is NOT part of the assonance because it makes a "ooh" sound instead of an "uh" sound.</p>	<p>Who sews crow's clothes?          Sue sews crow's clothes.          Slow Joe Crow sews whose clothes?          Sue's clothes.</p> <p>What <b>vowel</b> sound is repeated in the <u>middle</u> of words?          _____ (&lt; Write it here AND circle it every time it is used)</p>
<p><b>6. Rhyme:</b> A type of <b>repetition</b> where sounds at the <u>end</u> of words are repeated .</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This is when the final stressed vowel and all following sounds are identical</p> <p>Ex. Through three <u>cheese</u> <u>trees</u> three <u>free</u> <u>fleas</u> flew.</p> <p><b>Cheese, trees, and fleas</b> rhyme <u>and</u> <b>three</b> and <b>free</b> rhyme but <b>cheese, trees, and fleas</b>, don't rhyme with <b>three</b>, and <b>free</b> because they <u>only</u> have the same vowel sound (cheese, trees, and fleas end in a consonant). All together they're assonance.</p>	<p>Knox on fox in socks in box.          Socks on Knox and Knox in box.</p> <p>What words <b>rhyme</b>? <i>Please circle them.</i></p> <p>Clocks on fox tick.          Clocks on Knox tock.          Six sick bricks tick.          Six sick chicks tock.</p> <p>What words <b>rhyme</b>? <i>Please circle one set of rhyming words, box another set, and underline the other set.</i></p>

**\*More Practice:** Go to Videos and find the one labeled “Sound Devices.” Push play and after you hear a music clip, push stop so you can answer the question or questions that go with it. Then, move on to the next song.

Examples of Sound Devices from Songs:	Analysis: Identify the sound devices used in each song
<p><b>1. From “Grenade” by Bruno Mars</b></p> <p>I'd catch a <u>grenade</u> for you (yeah, yeah, yeah)            Throw my hand on a <u>blade</u> for you (yeah, yeah, yeah)            I'd jump in front of a <u>train</u> for you (yeah, yeah, yeah)            You know I'd do anything for you (yeah, yeah, yeah)            I would go through all this <b>pain</b>            Take a bullet straight through my <b>brain</b>            Yes, I would die for you, <b>baby</b>            But you won't do the <b>same</b></p>	<p>___ <u>Grenade/ blade</u> and <b>pain/ brain/train</b> are examples of ____.</p> <p>a. consonance    b. onomatopoeia    c. rhyme</p> <p>___ The “a” sound in words like <u>grenade</u>, <u>pain</u>, <u>take</u>, and <u>same</u> is</p> <p>a. assonance    b. consonance    c. alliteration</p>
<p><b>2. From “Firework” by Katy Perry</b></p> <p>You just gotta ign<u>i</u>te the <u>l</u>ight            And let it <u>sh</u>ine            Just own the <u>n</u>ight  <u>L</u>ike the Fourth of July</p> <p><b><u>Boom, boom, boom</u></b>            Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon            It's always been inside of <u>you, you, you</u>            And now it's time to let it <u>th</u>rough</p>	<p><b>The repetition of the “i” sound is an example of ____.</b></p> <p>a. assonance    b. consonance    c. alliteration</p> <p>Light and night, and you and through are both examples of ____.</p> <p>a. repetition    b. alliteration    c. rhyme</p> <p>&lt; ___ <b>Which type of sound device is <u>underlined</u> in the last stanza?</b></p> <p>a. consonance    b. onomatopoeia    c. rhyme</p>
<p><b>3. From “Supermassive Black Hole” by Muse</b></p> <p>(You set my soul alight)            Glacier<u>s</u> melting in the dead of night            And the super<u>st</u>ars sucked into the super<u>ma</u>ssive</p>	<p>___ <b>The repetition of the “s” sound at the <u>beginning</u> of words like <u>set</u>, <u>soul</u>, <u>superstars</u>, and <u>sucked</u> is an example of ____.</b></p> <p>a. assonance    b. consonance    c. alliteration</p> <p>___ <b>The repetition of the “s” sound in the <u>middle</u> or <u>end</u> of the words <u>glaciers</u>, <u>superstars</u>, and <u>supermassive</u> is an example of ____.</b></p> <p>a. assonance    b. consonance    c. alliteration</p>
<p><b>4. From “Party Rock” by LMFAO</b></p> <p>Party Rock. Yea! Whoa! Let's Go!            Party rock is in the house <b><u>tonight</u></b>            Everybody just have a good <b><u>time</u></b>            And we gonna make you lose your <b><u>mind</u></b>            Everybody just have a good time</p>	<p><b><u>Tonight</u>, <u>time</u>, and <u>mind</u></b> include an example of assonance.            Which sound is repeated? a. a consonant    b. a vowel</p> <p>&lt; Circle the sound in all three words and write the sound here: _____</p>
<p><b>5. From “I Love You Like...” by Selena Gomez</b></p> <p>I, I love you like a love song, baby            I, I love you like a love song, baby            I, I love you like a love song, baby            And I keep hitting re-peat-peat-peat-peat-peat</p>	<p>&lt; <b>Which sound device</b> is used most prominently in this song?</p> <p>Explain: _____</p>
<p><b>6. From “California Gurls” by Katy Perry</b></p> <p>California gurls we're undeniable  <b><u>Fine, fresh, fierce</u></b> we got it on lock            Westcoast represent now put your hands up            Oooooh oh oooooh</p>	<p><b><u>Fine, fresh,</u> and <u>fierce</u></b> include an example of alliteration.            Which sound is repeated? a. a consonant    b. a vowel</p> <p>&lt; Circle the sound in all three words and write the sound here: _____</p>

III. Imagery is the use of vivid description, rich in sensory words, to create pictures, or images, in the reader's mind.

**Note:** Imagery is created by the writer not the reader. In other words, imagery is NOT you imagining pictures in your mind that you think *might* be happening. Imagery is when the writer paints you a picture.

**How do I create imagery?** Use words that describe how something looks, what it sounds like, smells like, tastes like, or feels like. This can be done through specific nouns, action verbs, adjectives, or adverbs. I can also be done through figurative language and onomatopoeia.

**Example:** You can see how these techniques have been combined to create imagery in the poem below:

"I Wandered Lonely As a Cloud" by William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud

That **floats** on high o'er vales and hills,

When all at once I saw a crowd,

A host, of *golden* daffodils;

Beside the lake, beneath the trees,

Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

wandered lonely as a cloud= simile

**floats** = action verb

*golden*= adjective that describes the specific noun, daffodils

Fluttering and dancing in the breeze= personification

**\*Practice:** Watch the "Thriller" video. Then read the words to the song, identify the imagery, and analyze how this imagery helps to create mood.

<b>Song with Imagery:</b>	<b>Analysis:</b>
<p><b>Thriller</b>-Michael Jackson</p> <p>It's close to midnight and something evil's lurking in the dark Under the moonlight you see a sight that almost stops your heart You try to scream but terror takes the sound before you make it <u>You start to freeze as horror looks you right between the eyes,</u> You're paralyzed</p> <p><i>'Cause this is thriller, thriller night And no one's gonna save you from the beast about strike You know it's thriller, thriller night You're fighting for your life inside a killer, thriller tonight</i></p> <p>You hear the door slam and realize there's nowhere left to run You feel the cold hand and wonder if you'll ever see the sun You close your eyes and hope that this is just imagination But all the while you hear the creature creepin' up behind You're out of time</p> <p><b>(Rap performed by Vincent Price)</b> Darkness falls across the land The midnight hour is close at hand Creatures crawl in search of blood To terrorize y'all's neighborhood And whosoever shall be found Without the soul for getting down Must stand and face the hounds of hell And rot inside a corpse's shell The foulest stench is in the air                  <b>stench</b>= stink The funk of forty thousand years And grizzly ghouls from every tomb                  <b>ghoul</b>= ghost Are closing in to seal your doom And though you fight to stay alive Your body starts to shiver For no mere mortal can resist The evil of the thriller.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Identify the imagery in "Thriller" and look at how it helps to create mood.</p> <p>&lt;<b>The imagery used in <u>this line</u> is also an example of ____.</b> a. simile                  b. metaphor                  c. personification</p> <p>&lt;<b>Underline the rhyme in this stanza and circle the assonance.</b></p> <p>&lt;<b>Underline the imagery in this stanza.</b> Which of the 5 senses are appealed to here? (You may circle more than one) a. sight    b. sound    c. taste    d. touch    e. smell</p> <p>&lt;<b>Circle the onomatopoeia word in this stanza.</b></p> <p>&lt;<b>Underline the imagery in the rap performed by Vincent Price.</b> Which of the 5 senses are appealed to here? (You may circle more than one) a. sight    b. sound    c. taste    d. touch    e. smell</p> <p>&lt;<b>Show the alliteration in this stanza by circling the letter that repeats.</b></p> <p>____ <b>The imagery in this song helps to create what kind of mood?</b> a. triumphant and animated                  c. sad and bewildered b. peaceful    d. suspenseful and eerie</p>

**III. SYMBOLISM:** A **symbol** is a person, place, or thing that represents or stands for something beyond itself.

Ex. Anne can't throw out the Star of David because she sees it as a symbol of her Jewish faith, but Peter wants to get rid of it because he sees it as a symbol of Nazi persecution.

**IV. Review:** *Read the following song and annotate for poetic devices.*

**Katy Perry- "Firework"**

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag  
Drifting through the wind  
Wanting to start again?

- \_\_\_1. Which poetic device is used here?  
a. repetition    b. simile & imagery    c. rhyme & metaphor

Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin  
Like a house of cards  
One blow from caving in?

- \_\_\_2. Which sound device is used here?  
a. onomatopoeia    b. rhyme    c. alliteration

Do you ever feel already buried deep  
Six feet under scream  
But no one seems to hear a thing?

- \_\_\_3. Which sound device is used here?  
a. rhyme    b. assonance    c. consonance

Do you know that there's still a chance for you  
Cause there's a spark in you?

You just gotta ignite the light  
And let it shine  
Just own the night  
Like the Fourth of July

4. Underline the consonance and circle the assonance  
in this stanza.

***Chorus:** Cause baby you're a firework  
Come on show 'em what you're worth  
Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!"  
As you shoot across the sky-y-y*

- \_\_\_5. Which sound device is used here?  
a. alliteration    b. rhyme    c. repetition

*Baby you're a firework  
Come on let your colors burst  
Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!"  
You're gunna leave 'em fallin' down-own-own*

You don't have to feel like a waste of space  
You're original, cannot be replaced  
If you only knew what the future holds  
After a hurricane comes a rainbow

- \_\_\_6. Which sound device is used here?  
a. alliteration    b. assonance    c. consonance

Maybe the reason why all the doors are closed  
So you could open one that leads you to the perfect road  
Like a lightning bolt, your heart will blow  
And when it's time, you'll know

- \_\_\_7. Which type of figurative language is used here?  
a. metaphor    b. simile    c. personification

You just gotta ignite the light  
And let it shine  
Just own the night  
Like the Fourth of July

- \_\_\_8. Which type of figurative language is used here?  
a. metaphor    b. simile    c. personification

*-Chorus-*

Boom, boom, boom  
Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon  
It's always been inside of you, you, you  
And now it's time to let it through

- \_\_\_9. Which sound device is used here?  
a. onomatopoeia    b. rhyme    c. alliteration