

Figurative Language Terms

Figurative Language

writing or speech that is not meant to be taken literally; writers use this to express their meanings in fresh, vivid, or surprising ways
simile, metaphor, alliteration, imagery, personification, hyperbole

alliteration

repetition of initial consonant sounds

ex: flying fish, six silly snakes, nearly napping, doubting dreams

hyperbole

a gross exaggeration for effect

ex: I'm so hungry I could eat a horse!

simile

a comparison of two things using the words *like* or *as*

ex: Her blue eyes sparkled like the ocean.

metaphor

the use of a word or phrase in a way that is different from its usual use; indirect comparison between two things

ex: As he raced around the track, he was the wind.

personification

giving human characteristics to inanimate objects

ex: The engine of my mother's new sports car purrs.

irony

surprising, amusing, or interesting turn of events or conclusion to a story

ex: An old man turned 98. He won the lottery, but died the next day.

oxymoron

two words with opposite meanings put together

ex: pretty ugly, black light, dotted line, silent scream, living dead, small crowd

onomatopoeia

words which represent or imitate sounds

ex: muttered, fluttered, smack, buzz, bang, pow

imagery

words or phrases which appeal to one of the five senses

ex: The smell of freshly popped popcorn filled the room.

symbol

anything that stands for or represents else; usually concrete objects or images that represent abstract ideas

ex: dove = peace heart = love eagle = freedom

idioms

an expression that does not mean exactly what it says

ex: to know like a book, don't look a gift horse in the mouth, you have a green thumb, break a leg