

Figurative Language

A tool that an author uses to help readers visualize what is happening in the story.

Some Types of Figurative Language

Hyperbole: An exaggeration (That building can touch the clouds.)

Idiom: A speech form or an expression of a given language that is peculiar to itself grammatically or cannot be understood from the individual meanings of its elements, as in *kick the bucket* or *under the weather*.

Irony: The opposite of what is meant.

Metaphor: A comparison of two things, which are alike in some way, in order to clarify our understanding of one of them.

Personification: Making an inanimate object act like a person or animal

Puns: A word or words, which are formed or sounded alike, but have different meaning; to have more than one possible meaning. (Using that pencil is pointless.)

Simile: A comparison using “like” or “as” (She sings like an angel.)

Understatement: An ironic statement where something doesn’t sound as important as it actually is (I don’t have that much homework).

Apostrophe: A rhetorical device where a speaker turns from the audience as a whole to address a single person or thing.

Metonymy: the naming of an object associated with a thing in place of the name of the thing itself.

Oxymoron: A statement that contradicts itself

Paradox: Seemingly contradictory statement. All forms of irony involve paradox. An oxymoron is a paradoxical statement. Some paradoxes present unresolvable contradictory ideas.

Synecdoche: The name of part of something is used in place of the name of the whole or vice versa.

Imagery: Language that appeals to the reader’s sense of sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch.

Onomatopoeia: A word that sounds the same as it is written.

Epithets: A descriptive phrase that presents a particular trait of a person or thing.

Extended Metaphor: sustains a metaphor for several lines or an entire poem.

Cliché: any figure of speech that was once clever and original but through overuse has become outdated



*“Good news.
The test results show it’s a metaphor.”*