

Figurative Writing

Name: _____

Figurative writing uses non-literal language to create a deeper, more vivid impression on the reader. It includes figures of speech like similes, metaphors, and hyperbole to make comparisons, evoke emotion, and add creative flair beyond the literal meaning of words. This type of writing is used to explain complex ideas, influence an audience, and make writing more engaging and powerful. Figurative language is the opposite of literal language, which means exactly what it says. For example, saying "I'm feeling blue" is figurative for being sad, while saying "I went to the grocery store" is literal.

How to write figuratively:

- Use **metaphor** – a metaphor describes something by saying that it IS something else
 - She is an angel
- Use **simile** – a simile describes something by COMPARING it to something else (using the words 'like' or 'as')
 - She is as beautiful as the sun
- Use **personification** – personification is when something is described as if it is a person
 - The trees danced playfully in the rain
- Use **imagery** – imagery is when you describe something so vividly that you can easily picture it
 - The sun set slowly, peacefully, stretching the last of its golden rays beyond the grasp of the horizon



Examples of figurative language:

<p>Instead of saying: "I lied", you can say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "I bent the truth until it almost snapped."• "I painted the truth with bright colors that didn't belong."• "My words wore a mask."• "The truth slipped through my fingers."• "I built a castle out of make-believe."• "I stretched the truth until it fell through my fingers"• "My tongue danced around the truth."• "I wrapped the truth in a blanket of stories."• "The truth stood behind me, silent, while I handed you something prettier"	<p>Instead of saying: "I love you", you can say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "You've tied your name around my heart."• "My heart is a drum that beats your name."• "You live in the quiet corners of my heart."• "You're the sunshine that warms my world."• "My heart dances when you're near."• "You're the missing piece in my puzzle."• "Being with you feels like breathing fresh air after a storm."
<p>Instead of saying: "I forgot", you can say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "My mind was a blank page."• "The thought slipped through my fingers."• "My memory flew away like a bird."• "The idea vanished into thin air."• The thought fell into the cracks of my mind."• It was an idea that was so powerfully present, and then suddenly gone• The idea remained for just a moment, before joining the mists of time	<p>Instead of saying: "it's cold out", you can say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "The air bit at my cheeks like tiny needles."• "Winter wrapped its icy fingers around the world."• "The wind howled like a hungry wolf."• "Frost painted the windows with its silver brush."• "The air felt sharp enough to shatter."• "The world was frozen still, holding its breath."
<p>Instead of saying: "I'm not too sure what I'm feeling", you can say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "My heart is a jumble of colors that don't mix"• "It's like my feelings are speaking different languages."• "I'm standing in a fog of emotions, and I can't see which way to go."• "My heart is a radio, unable to hear proper stations."• "My feelings are a tangled ball of yarn."	<p>Instead of saying: "I wish things were different", you can say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "I wish I could turn back the clock and paint a new picture."• "If only life had an eraser, I'd rewrite this page."• "My heart leans toward the stars, hoping for a new constellation."• "I'm standing in yesterday's shadow, wishing for sunlight."• "I tossed a wish into the wind and hoped it would find its way."• "My heart whispers, 'Maybe next time.'"• Tonight, I dine on regret, and toast to forgetting

Try using figurative language:

For each literal statement, try to come up with a poetic / figurative way of expressing the same feeling:

I feel lonely:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I can't wait until tomorrow:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The song makes me think of you

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I am so angry

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

