

ELA

LearnZillion

Recognizing figurative language in poetry



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MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Before teaching this lesson...

- arrange student pairs for the activity.
- preview the lesson in full and prepare to support students in recognizing figurative language.
- you may choose to provide pen and paper for students to draft their answers.

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GUIDING QUESTION

How do you understand when a poet is using words that have double meaning?



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson
you will be able to...

- identify different types of figurative language in poetry.
- find double meaning in poems and understand the difference between literal and figurative meaning.



Let's get started!





What are some examples of figurative language?

Collaborate!

What are some examples of figurative language?

Slideshow



LITERAL OR FIGURATIVE

Literal: the dictionary definition of a word or phrase.
For example: A fox is an animal that lives in the forest.

Figurative: A creative way to say something often by making a comparison. For example: "You are a fox," means that you are sneaky or sly.

1

2



A COMMON MISTAKE

A common mistake is thinking that a poet is speaking literally when they are not! Read the poem closely to identify parts of a poem that have a double meaning. What is the literal meaning and what is the figurative meaning?

Example:

The sun smiles upon me.



WRONG!



RIGHT!

1

2



TODAY'S LESSON

In today's lesson, you will learn how to identify different types of figurative language in a poem including similes and metaphors, personification, and idioms.



Let's learn!



Slideshow

Twelfth Song of the Thunder



The voice above,
The voice of the thunder.
Within the dark cloud
Again and again it sounds,
The voice that beautifies the land.

The voice that beautifies the land!
The voice below:
The voice of the grasshopper.
Among the plants
Again and again it sounds,
The voice that beautifies the land.

Anonymous

1

2

3



IDENTIFY THE FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Read this line from the poem: "The voice of the thunder." What does it mean for thunder to have a voice? The poem is making a comparison by giving the thunder human characteristics. This is called personification.

1

2

3



REVIEW THE STEPS

1. Look for figurative language.
2. Ask yourself "What does this literally mean?"
3. Ask yourself "What does the author really mean?"



Let's try it together!



FINDING FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Now it's time to use what we've learned to develop our reading and examination skills! We'll read the poem "Twelfth Song of Thunder" again and identify some more figurative language.



Draw It

Read the poem again as a class and identify another piece of figurative language. Highlight it below. What is it and what does it mean?

Twelfth Song of the Thunder



The voice above,
The voice of the thunder.
Within the dark cloud
Again and again it sounds,
The voice that beautifies the land.

The voice that beautifies the land!
The voice below:
The voice of the grasshopper.
Among the plants
Again and again it sounds,
The voice that beautifies the land.

Anonymous



Let's practice in pairs!



PRACTICE IN PAIRS

Read another poem with your partner and identify the figurative language. After, you'll have a chance to practice independently.

Draw It

Read the stanza of poem below with your partner. Can you find any figurative language? Highlight it below.


The Song Of Wandering Aengus



I went out to the hazel wood,
Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and peeled a hazel wand,
And hooked a berry to a thread;
And when white moths were on the wing,
And moth-like stars were flickering out,
I dropped the berry in a stream
And caught a little silver trout.

William Butler Yeats

Open Ended Question

The Song Of Wandering Aengus 

I went out to the hazel wood,
Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and peeled a hazel wand,
And hooked a berry to a thread;
And when white moths were on the wing,
And moth-like stars were flickering out,
I dropped the berry in a stream
And caught a little silver trout.

William Butler Yeats

**What do you think the figurative language means?
Discuss with your partner and write your answer below.**



Let's practice!





INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Get ready to reflect and apply what you've learned today! We're going to answer some questions. Take a moment to ask any questions before you begin!

Draw It

The Dawn's Awake!




The Dawn's awake!
A flash of smoldering flame and fire
Ignites the East. Then, higher, higher,
O'er all the sky so gray, forlorn,
The torch of gold is borne.

The Dawn's awake!
The dawn of a thousand dreams and thrills.
And music singing in the hills
A paeon of eternal spring
Voices the new awakening.

Otto Leland Bohanan

Open Ended Question

The Dawn's Awake! 

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Otto Leland Bohanan

**What do you think the figurative language means?
Write your answer below.**



Let's reflect!



Open Ended Question

How do you understand when a poet is using words that have double meaning?

Poll



How do you feel about identifying figurative language in poetry?

- red
- yellow
- green

Thank You!

