

Three Free

# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

WORKSHEETS

Answer  
Keys  
Included

*Thank you ...*

I am so pleased that you have downloaded these worksheets, & I hope they prove useful to your students. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, and know that feedback is always appreciated!

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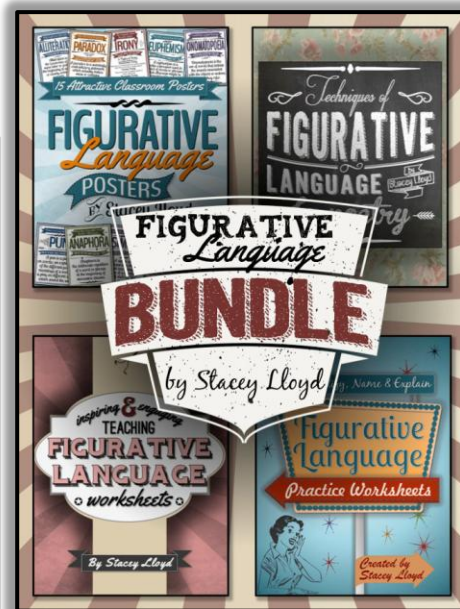
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+ Answer Key
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+ Answer Key
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+ Answer Key



# Identifying FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

in song lyrics



For each of the following extracts from songs, identify and explain the figurative language techniques used.

1 "It might seem crazy what I'm about to say / Sunshine she's here, you can take a break / I'm a hot air balloon that could go to space."

- *Happy* by Pharrell Williams

2 "Do you ever feel like a plastic bag / Drifting through the wind... / Do you know that there's still a chance for you / 'Cause there's a spark in you... / 'Cause baby you're a firework"

- *Firework* by Katy Perry

3 "I'd catch a grenade for you / Throw my head on a blade for you / I'd jump in front of a train for you."

- *Grenade* by Bruno Mars

4 "On the day that I was born / the cards were dealt, the dice were thrown / I think my destiny was drawn."

- *Only You* by Keith Urban


5 "Yeah, you can be the greatest, you can be the best / You can be the King Kong banging on your chest / You can beat the world, you can win the war / You can talk to God, go banging on his door."

- *Hall of Fame* by The Script

# Identifying

# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

in song lyrics



## Answer Key

For each of the following extracts from songs, identify and explain the figurative language techniques used.

1 "It might seem crazy what I'm about to say / Sunshine she's here, you can take a break / I'm a hot air balloon that could go to space."

- Happy by Pharrell Williams

1) The singer isn't literally a hot air balloon. This is a metaphor and it means that he is so filled with happiness, he could float all the way to space - in the same way a hot air balloon floats over the world.

2 "Do you ever feel like a plastic bag / Drifting through the wind... / Do you know that there's still a chance for you / 'Cause there's a spark in you... / 'Cause baby you're a firework"

- Firework by Katy Perry

2) 'Do you feel like a plastic bag' is a simile as she is comparing how one feels, to a bag being tossed about. This simile is effective because she is saying that sometimes we feel as if we have no direction, we just go where we are told or where life takes us - just as a plastic bag is thrown around in the wind. Also, 'there's a spark in you' and 'you're a firework' are metaphors.

3 "I'd catch a grenade for you / Throw my head on a blade for you / I'd jump in front of a train for you."

- Grenade by Bruno Mars

3) These lyrics are a good example of hyperbole. He doesn't literally mean that he would catch a grenade. The singer is exaggerating to make a point - which is that he is willing to do a lot for her and her love.

4 "On the day that I was born / The cards were dealt, the dice were thrown / I think my destiny was drawn."

- Only You by Keith Urban

4) 'The cards were dealt' and 'the dice were thrown' are metaphors, which mean that his fate was decided for him. Also the repeated 'd' sounds are an example of alliteration.

5 "Yeah, you can be the greatest, you can be the best / You can be the King Kong banging on your chest / You can beat the world, you can win the war / You can talk to God, go banging on his door."

- Hall of Fame by The Script

5) The reference to King Kong here is an example of allusion, as the singer is alluding to the story of King Kong, and meaning that you can be large and powerful. Also when he references 'the world', it is an example of synecdoche. He means the part of the world which one inhabits.

# Identifying <sup>★</sup> FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE <sup>in</sup> fiction <sup>★</sup>



Read the following extract; then fill in the table below.

Someone once said, "No great mind has ever existed without a touch of madness." Or something like that. It was a statement my first therapist was fond of repeating. In fact, she was always saying it. It struck me as odd. Wasn't she supposed to be fixing me, not encouraging my flights of fancy? That's probably why my mother let her go. Dear Dr. Cassie didn't want to incarcerate me here in Hell. She didn't think it was necessary. She didn't see the need to put me away. She didn't think I was crazy. So my loving mother found someone who did. And, like Alice down the rabbit hole, here I am.

	Identify	Name	Explain
1	'In fact, she was always saying it.'		
2	'It always struck me as odd.'		
3		Alliteration	
4	'let her go'		
5		Metaphor	
6		Verbal Irony	
7	'like Alice down the rabbit hole'		
8		Anaphora	

# Identifying FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

## Answer Key

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Identify	Name	Explain
1 'In fact, she was always saying it.'	Hyperbole	She can't have <i>always</i> been saying this - she must have said other things. This is an exaggeration to make the point that she said it often and a lot of the time.
2 'It always struck me as odd.'	Personification	The fact 'struck' the narrator, yet it is not a person and cannot 'strike' her. Therefore this is an example of personification.
3 'flights of fancy'	Alliteration	The repeated 'f' sound here is alliterative. It emphasizes the words and makes them more memorable.
4 'let her go'	Euphemism	'let her go' is a euphemism for 'she fired her'. We often euphemize unpleasant situations, such as the loss of a job.
5 'here in Hell'	Metaphor	She is not literally in Hell; therefore it is a metaphor. What she means is that it feels like Hell, a place where she is trapped & tormented.
6 'my loving mother'	Verbal Irony	She says 'my loving mother' yet she means the opposite; therefore it is ironic. She does not think that what her mother did was 'loving'.
7 'like Alice down the rabbit hole'	Simile / Allusion	This is a simile as she is comparing herself to Alice when Alice fell down the rabbit hole. However, it is also an allusion to the famous story of Alice in Wonderland. She is therefore implying a comparison between where she is to the crazy place of wonderland.
8 "she didn't... she didn't... she didn't..."	Anaphora	These clauses all start with 'she didn't...' This is an example of anaphora. Through using repetition the narrator is emphasizing the comparison between the therapist and her mother. She is implying that her mother <i>did</i> think all these things.

# Analyzing a Poem

The following poem contains many examples of figurative language; these have been identified for you, but you must name & explain each technique contained in the lines identified.



## 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.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they  
Out-did the sparkling leaves in glee;  
A poet could not be but gay,  
In such a jocund company!  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.

[Lines 1-2] Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

[Line 3] Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

[Line 6] Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

[Line 8] Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

[Line 22] Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

[Line 18] Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the overall effect of the figurative language in this poem? \_\_\_\_\_

# Answer Key

## Analyzing a Poem

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[Lines 1-2] Name: Simile

Explain: Here speaker is comparing the way he walks to the floating of a cloud. This is effective as 'to wander' means to walk in an aimless, leisurely way - which is exactly how a cloud floats.

[Line 3] Name: Alliteration

Explain: The repeated 'wh' sound here (even in 'once') is alliterative. It is effective as the speaker is describing how he floats and gently wanders, and it is mimetically a gently, soft sound.

[Line 6] Name: Simile

Explain: Here the continuous line of daffodils is compared to the endless stars in the sky with the word 'as'. This is effective as it illustrates how vast the field of flowers was.

[Line 8] Name: Hyperbole

Explain: The line of daffodils must actually end at some point - therefore it is not literally 'never-ending'. He is exaggerating to make the point that is seemed to go on for a very long way.

[Line 22] Name: Assonance

Explain: The repeated 'i' sound here ('which is the bliss of solitude') is an example of assonance. It is an open vowel sound, and again adds to the soft and gentle sound (and tone) of the poem.

[Line 18] Name: Personification

Explain: Throughout the poem the daffodils are personified (they dance, toss their heads and are jocund company). Here is another example of personification as his heart is personified as dancing. This illustrates how joyful and happy he feels.

What is the overall effect of the figurative language in this poem? This poem is filled with imagery as the speaker attempts to describe the beautiful scene of daffodils. Therefore the figurative language (the similes, personification) helps to create this picture in the mind of the reader. Similarly, the sound devices used add to the gentle and peaceful tone of the poem.