

Name _____

Date _____

Identifying Figurative Language – Worksheet 1

Carefully read the lines of poetry below. Note that the slashes (/) represent line breaks. Determine which technique is being used: simile, metaphor, hyperbole or personification. Then, explain your answer. It may be possible for more than one technique to be used.

1. The children surrounded her like / the roots of a tree. What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

2. When the swarm of bees buzzed overhead / The sky turned dark as night. What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

3. The clouds were low and hairy in the skies. What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

4. If you were only one inch tall, you'd ride a worm to school. / The teardrop of a crying ant would be your swimming pool. What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

5. The tabloids screamed insults at celebrities What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?



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6. And the stars shall not look down / From their high thrones in the Heaven,
What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

7. Now, Banjo, I know mamma wants me, / And so I must bid you good-bye!
What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

8. GOD says to me with a kind / of smile, "Hey how would you like / to be God awhile and
steer the world?" / "Okay," says I, "I'll give it a try,"
What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

9. Dandruff left a thick layer / like freshly fallen snow on his shoulders
What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?

10. Abandoned warehouses and rundown apartments were the skeletons of the old city
What technique is being used (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)? How can you tell?



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Answers

1. Simile. Similes compare two different things by using “like,” “as,” or “than.” Here, children are compared with roots of a tree.
2. Simile. Similes compare two different things by using “like,” “as,” or “than.” Here, the swarm of bees is compared to the night sky.
3. Hyperbole. Hyperbole is the use of exaggeration. Here, the quality of the low-hanging clouds is being exaggerated.
4. Hyperbole. Hyperbole is the use of exaggeration. Here, size is being exaggerated with humorous everyday examples.
5. Personification. Personification is a device which gives human qualities to non-living things. Here, tabloids “scream” at the readers.
6. Personification. Personification is a device which gives human qualities to non-living things. Here, stars are seated on “high thrones,” and can “look down” on whatever is below.
7. Personification. Personification is a device which gives human qualities to non-living things. Here, the speaker refers to a banjo as if it were a person.
8. Metaphor. Metaphors are analogies between two separate things or ideas. Here, the concept of a boat is linked to the world.
9. Simile. Similes compare two different things by using “like,” “as,” or “than.” Here, dandruff is compared to snow.
10. Metaphor. Metaphors are analogies between two separate things or ideas. Here, the warehouses and apartments are being compared with skeletons.

