

Painting Pictures with Words: Figurative Language

Learning objective: To identify and use similes, metaphors, and personification to enhance descriptive writing.

Read the story below about Max the monkey and his forest adventure. Look out for the hidden descriptive techniques, then answer the questions to show how well you understand them.

Max sat high in the ancient oak tree, watching the forest wake up. The morning sun was a golden coin glowing in the sky. Below him, the wind whispered secrets to the rustling leaves, telling them it was time to dance. Max felt as light as a feather as he hopped from branch to branch. The forest floor was a thick, emerald carpet, soft and welcoming. He spotted a bright flower that stood as tall as a sunflower, stretching its petals towards the warmth like a sleepy child waking from a nap.

Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Personification · Adjective · Vivid · Imagery

1. Find a simile in the passage. Explain why it is a simile and what two things are being compared. (2 marks)

2. Identify one example of personification. What human action is the object performing? (2 marks)

3. 'The morning sun was a golden coin.' Is this a simile or a metaphor? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

4. Why do you think the author chose to describe the forest floor as an 'emerald carpet' instead of just saying it was green grass? (2 marks)

5. Write your own original simile to describe how Max the monkey moves through the trees. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the forest based on the descriptions in the story. Make sure you include the 'golden coin' sun and the 'emerald carpet' floor.



Extension challenge: Choose an object in your classroom, such as a pencil, a desk, or a clock. Write three sentences about it: one using a simile, one using a metaphor, and one using personification.