

Painting Pictures with Words: A Figurative Language Adventure

Learning objective: To identify and use similes, metaphors, and personification to create vivid descriptions.

Read the short story below about Max the monkey. Look for the figurative language hidden in the text. Then, use your imagination to draw the scene described in the passage, focusing on the details provided by the descriptive language.

Max the monkey sat in the ancient oak tree. The wind whispered secrets through the leaves, telling stories of the forest. Max felt as brave as a lion as he gazed at the horizon. To him, the sunset was a giant orange marmalade jar spilling light across the sky. The clouds were fluffy cotton wool pillows resting on the mountain peaks. He held his favourite notebook tightly, ready to solve the mysteries of the jungle.

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

1. Find a simile in the text and write it down. Why is this a good comparison for Max? (2 marks)

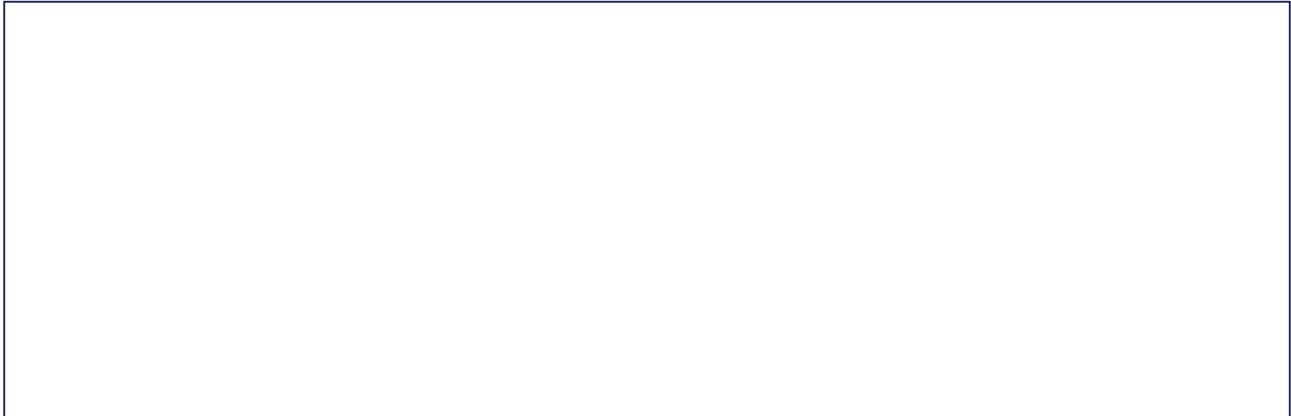
2. Identify the example of personification in the first paragraph. What human action is the wind performing? (2 marks)

3. The author calls the sunset a 'giant orange marmalade jar'. Is this a simile or a metaphor? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

4. Find the metaphor used to describe the clouds. How does this help you visualise them? (2 marks)

5. Write your own sentence about the jungle using a simile to describe how loud a parrot is. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw the scene from the passage. Include Max the monkey in the oak tree, the _____ marmalade-jar sunset, and the fluffy cotton-wool clouds. Use your colours to show how the light is 'spilling' across the sky.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph describing a storm using personification. Give the thunder and lightning 'human' personalities—for example, could the thunder be an angry giant shouting, or the lightning a mischievous dancer?