

Max and Zara's Guide to Figurative Language

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

Read the short story below featuring Max the monkey and Zara the zebra. Look for the examples of figurative language and then answer the questions to test your detective skills!

The sun was a golden coin in the sky as Max and Zara walked through the Whispering Woods. The trees stretched their long, leafy arms towards the clouds, trying to catch the breeze. Max felt as hungry as a lion, his stomach rumbling like a distant drum. 'Look at those flowers,' Zara said, pointing to the meadow. 'The petals are velvet blankets covering the earth.' Max chuckled, thinking that their adventure was a treasure map waiting to be solved.

Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Personification · Imagery · Comparison · Human-like

1. Identify one simile from the passage. Why is this an effective way to describe Max's hunger? (2 marks)

2. The author writes: 'The trees stretched their long, leafy arms.' Which type of figurative language is this, and what human action are the trees performing? (2 marks)

3. Find the metaphor in the text that describes the sun. What is the sun being compared to? (2 marks)

4. Rewrite this sentence as a simile: 'Zara is fast.' (1 mark)

5. Explain why an author might use personification in their story. How does it make the setting feel more real? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw the Whispering Woods described in the passage. Make sure to draw the trees with 'arms' and the sun as a 'golden coin' to bring the figurative language to life!



Extension challenge: Write three sentences of your own describing a stormy day. Use one simile, one metaphor, and one example of personification.