

# Painting with Words: Exploring Figurative Language

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

Read the story below about Max the monkey. Look for the hidden descriptions that compare things or give objects human qualities. Answer the questions to show how these techniques help bring the scene to life.

Max the monkey sat in the ancient oak tree, watching the afternoon sun dip below the horizon. The sun was a golden coin dropping into a giant piggy bank. The wind whispered secrets through the rustling leaves, telling stories of distant lands. Max felt as hungry as a bear after a long winter. He looked down at his snack bag, which held a bright red apple that shone like a polished ruby. Nearby, the brook giggled over the smooth grey pebbles, rushing towards the meadow.

*Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Personification · Adjective · Vivid · Compare*

**1. Identify one simile from the passage. Explain what two things are being compared. (2 marks)**

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**2. Find the metaphor used to describe the sun. Why do you think the author chose this specific image? (2 marks)**

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**3. In the passage, the wind is described as 'whispering secrets'. Which type of figurative language is this, and what does it suggest about the wind? (2 marks)**

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**4. The author says the brook 'giggled' over the pebbles. Rewrite this sentence using a different verb to show that the brook is moving very fast. (1 mark)**

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**5. Why do writers use figurative language instead of just saying 'the sun set' or 'the wind blew'? (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of Max the monkey's snack. Use your drawing to show the 'golden coin' sun in the background and the 'polished ruby' apple in the foreground.



*Extension challenge: Write three original sentences about a busy honeybee named Bea. Include one simile, one metaphor, and one example of personification in your sentences.*