

# Making Descriptions Sparkle: A Guide to Figurative Language

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

Read the word bank to help you understand different types of figurative language. Then, read the short story featuring Pip the bookworm and answer the questions to show your understanding.

Pip the bookworm sat on a giant oak leaf, ready to read. The wind whispered secrets through the ancient trees, tickling the forest floor. The forest was a green cathedral, stretching high towards the sky. Pip felt as brave as a lion as he turned the first page. Suddenly, a 'crackle' and 'pop' came from the dry twigs nearby. Pip's heart began to beat like a drum. He looked up and saw a golden sunbeam dancing on the grass, showing him the way to his next adventure.

*Word bank: Simile: comparing two things using 'as' or 'like'. · Metaphor: saying one thing is another to create a vivid image. · Personification: giving human qualities to non-human objects. · Alliteration: repeating the same sound at the start of words. · Onomatopoeia: words that sound like the noise they describe. · Imagery: language that creates a picture in the reader's mind.*

**1. Find one example of personification in the passage. Explain why this is personification. (2 marks)**

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**2. Identify the simile used to describe how Pip felt. What does this tell us about his mood? (2 marks)**

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**3. The author calls the forest a 'green cathedral'. Is this a simile or a metaphor? Explain your choice. (2 marks)**

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**4. List the two words of onomatopoeia found in the passage. (1 mark)**

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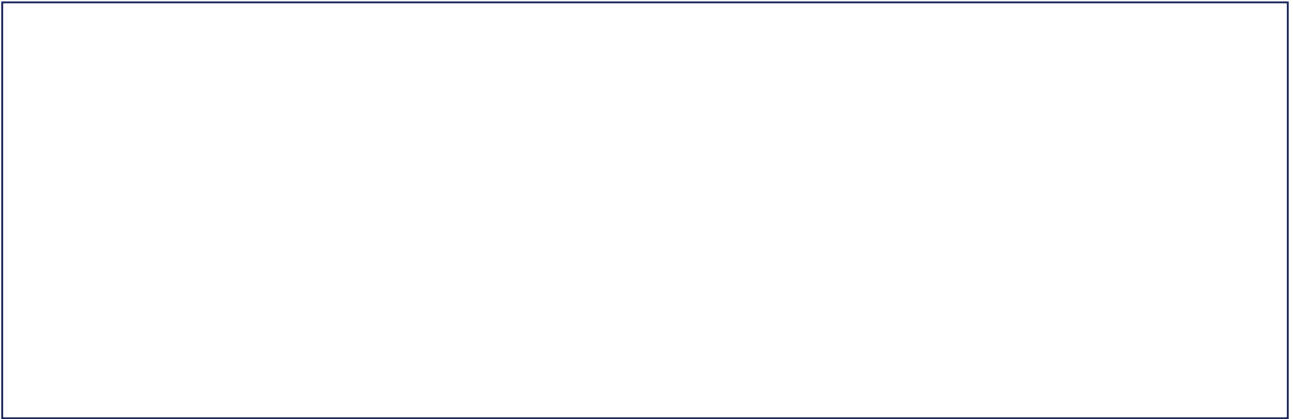
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5. Why do writers use figurative language in their stories? Give one reason. (2 marks)

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of the 'dancing sunbeam' described in the story, or create an illustration for a 'forest cathedral'.



*Extension challenge: Choose one object in your classroom and write three sentences about it: one using a simile, one using a metaphor, and one using personification.*