

Painting Pictures with Words: Figurative Language

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

Read the passage below featuring our friend Zara the zebra. Look for the examples of figurative language. Then, use the writing frame to describe a magical garden using your own creative comparisons.

Zara the zebra stood in the centre of the meadow. The morning dew sat on the grass like tiny, scattered diamonds (a simile). The sun was a golden coin in the sky, warming her stripes (a metaphor). Nearby, the ancient oak tree stretched its tired branches and began whispering secrets to the gentle breeze (personification). Zara loved to watch how the flowers seemed to waltz whenever the wind moved through them.

Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Personification · Glimmering · Whispering · Emerald · Velvet · Dancing

1. Find the simile in the passage and explain why it is a simile. (2 marks)

2. In the sentence 'The sun was a golden coin in the sky', is the author saying the sun is literally money? Why is this a metaphor? (2 marks)

3. Give an example of personification from the passage and identify which human action the tree is performing. (2 marks)

4. Write your own simile to describe a bright blue sky. (1 mark)

5. Write a sentence describing a river using a metaphor. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of a 'singing' garden where the flowers are wearing hats and the wind is playing a flute, as if the garden were a person.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about a busy kitchen or a stormy sea. Try to include at least one simile, one metaphor, and one example of personification in your description.