
Figurative Language

Figurative language is deliberate exaggeration, when a speaker says something that they do NOT *literally* mean.

Traditionally, figurative language falls into a four specific categories:

**HYPERBOLE
SIMILES
METAPHORS
&
PERSONIFICATION**

- **Hyperbole** is a very strong exaggeration.
Example: "He is stronger than ten giants."
see page 20.
- A **simile** is a comparison between two objects using the words "like" or "as."
Example: "She sings like a nightingale."
see page 79.
- A **metaphor** is a comparison between two objects (without "like" or "as").
Example: "Helen is an angel."
see page 40.
- **Personification** gives an inhuman thing human qualities.
Example: "The sunrise was jealous of her loveliness."
see page 69.

Classic poets use figurative language:

Come away, come away, death
And in sad cypress let me be laid
Fly away, fly away, breath;
I am slain by a fair, cruel maid.
(Shakespeare)

Hip-Hop poets use figurative language:

I'm like the farmer, plantin words, people are seeds
My truth is the soil; help you grow like trees.
(Nas)