

Figurative Language

Hyperbole - Exaggeration used to evoke strong feelings or to create a strong impression

Simile - comparison of two or more objects to draw attention to their similarities. "Like" or "As"

Personification - is a figure of speech that gives an inanimate object or abstract idea human traits and qualities, such as emotions, desires, sensations, physical gestures and speech.

Alliteration - is the repetition of a leading vowel or consonant sound in a phrase. "Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickled Pepper"

1. Pandora's Jar

[1] The only woman on Earth was bored.

[2] There was no denying, Pandora's life had been good since Zeus sent her down from Mount Olympus to be the world's first woman. She loved her husband, Epimetheus, the weather was always sunny, and peace and order prevailed.

[3] Nothing ever happened and maybe that was the trouble. There was nothing to strive for here, nothing to wonder about, nothing to do but watch Epimetheus nod off into a sunlit nap.

[4] Well, she did wonder about one thing, and that was the sealed clay jar that sat outside the house. It was just a jar, and it wouldn't have interested Pandora much except for the words Zeus had said when he gave it to her.

[5] "Never, ever open this jar," Zeus told her, making the inside of the jar the only thing Pandora could ponder.

[6] Epimetheus was perfectly content to obey Zeus. Zeus had put him into a wonderful world, and had sent him a wonderful wife. That was enough for Epimetheus, but it wasn't enough for Pandora. □

□

[7] She glanced over at her husband to see if he was deeply napping. When he rumbled with a snore that could have rocked Mount Olympus, she was satisfied that he slept soundly. □

□

[8] Pandora crept away to the side of their house where the jar sat. Gleefully, she grasped the lid and used all her strength to pry it open. □

□

[9] The first thing she noticed was a smell that was nothing like the usual scent of flowers carried along the warm breeze. Suddenly, the air smelled like a million rotten things, all of them left out in the sun too long. When she opened her mouth to inhale, she could taste something terrible. □

[10] Before she could make sense of what was happening, she was distracted by horrible sounds, the clanging of weapons and wails of despair, all sounds that had never been heard on Earth. □

[11] She saw images escaping from the jar, images of fear, pain, anger, and sorrow. Pandora tried to run and catch them, to put back all the terrible things and seal them away forever, but it was too late. When Pandora realized that she had released all this evil into the world, she sat down defeated. □

[12] One more thing escaped from the jar into the once-perfect world. It sang faintly, bounced gently, and even had a faintly pleasant aroma. It wasn't perfect, but it was by far the most beautiful thing to come out of the jar. It was hope. □

[13] "Life," Pandora thought with a mixture of expectation and concern, "may have just gotten much more interesting."

In paragraph 7, "a snore that could have rocked Mount Olympus" is an example of

- A. hyperbole**
- B. simile**
- C. personification**
- D. alliteration**

2. Stardust□

□

[1] “Are you ever going to finish that stupid thing, or what?” The words from the school bully, Biff, still rang in Charlie’s ears. □

□

[2] Charlie tried to ignore the criticism. He dipped his brush into a tub of black paint and went to work. Because of his outstanding work in art class, Charlie’s teacher, Mrs. Hill, had selected him to paint a mural on a back wall of the school gymnasium. Charlie had been laboring over it, off and on, for more than a week. □

□

[3] Charlie’s classmates took delight in teasing him about it. Maybe they were jealous. Maybe they were upset because part of the gym had to be closed off until he finished. Still, Charlie hoped the end result would be worth the struggle. He took the brush in his hand and flicked his wrist back and forth. □

□

[4] It was a Friday when Charlie’s mural was complete. Mrs. Hill brought the whole class to the gymnasium for the grand unveiling. Students snickered and cracked jokes on their way to the gym. Charlie tried to look self-assured; but inside, he fretted more than a little. □

[5] Mrs. Hill swung open the door, bringing students face to face with the mural. The class went silent. Before them stretched a pitch-black night sky. Inside the expanse was a gorgeous collection of luminous stars, decorating the wall like twirling pinwheels, beaming brightly like majestic fireworks. The colors soared and sailed in every direction, spanning from end to end. Above them, a crescent moon gazed on the scene. □

□
[6] “It’s beautiful!” squeaked Emily Harrison, Charlie’s crush. □

□
[7] The class erupted into applause and congratulations. Every student praised Charlie for his spectacular work, as some moved in for a closer look. Even Biff couldn’t criticize. “I guess you have some talent after all, huh?” he smirked. □

□
[8] Charlie just smiled. He had been confident all along.

In paragraph 5, “beaming brightly like majestic fireworks” is an example of

- A. hyperbole
- B. simile
- C. personification
- D. alliteration

3. The fisherman began to fling out his nets when the bark of a seal caused him to turn his head. There, paddling in the brine and cresting the waves, was a luminous silver seal; he knew it had to be the one! It submerged beneath the water's surface, only to reemerge farther away. Her dark eyes were calling to him. They were imploring, "This way!" So he directed his boat in pursuit, abandoning all thoughts of fishing.

In the paragraph, "Her dark eyes were calling to him" is an example of

- A. hyperbole
- B. simile
- C. personification
- D. alliteration

4. Life is a roller coaster ride. Its ups and downs can keep you on your feet.

In the sentences, why is life compared to a roller coaster ride?

- A. to show that life is changing
- B. to show that life is boring
- C. to suggest riding a roller coaster
- D. to show that life is short

5. The candidates this year for class president are all very sharp. Each one answered the debate questions quickly and intelligently.

What is the BEST definition of *sharp*? ☐

- A. Quick witted and intelligent
- B. With an edge or point
- C. Critical and unsympathetic
- D. Irritable and angry

