

# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Figurative language is meant to stir the imagination and help the reader see things in new and surprising ways.

1. **Simile** – uses the key words *like* or *as* to make a comparison between two unlike objects

My feet were *like* pancakes on a hot griddle that steamy August afternoon.  
The dog was *as* muddy *as* a river bottom.  
The society lady wore a hat that was *like* a bird's nest.

2. **Metaphor** – compares two unlike objects, but does NOT use any key words

Here eyes were emeralds sparkling in the sunlight.  
The clouds were marshmallows.

3. **Hyperbole** – a huge exaggeration used for effect. It often takes the form of an overstatement

I'm so hungry I could eat a whole ham.  
She was thrilled to get a parking place at the busy mall.

4. **Personification** – giving human qualities to a nonliving object or an animal. Think of it as treating a thing as a person.

The night has a cold heart.  
The teakettle sang a merry tune.

5. **Imagery** – concrete words or details that appeal to the senses (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste) and to internal feelings

The smell of sizzling bacon filled the air.  
The rain was beating on my head.

6. **Alliteration** – the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words

Curiosity killed the cat.  
Terrified Tim tried to trick his mind.

