

Figurative Language

Learn

Poetry can be used to create a clear image in your reader's mind. You can use **figurative language** in your poems to help you do this.

[\(If you have access to a computer, watch the video\).](#)

Figurative language is a kind of **descriptive language** that doesn't mean what it says literally. Here are some figurative language techniques that you might already know:

Similes describe something by comparing it to something else, using like or as.

For example: *The grass was as green as an emerald.*

Metaphors are words or phrases used to describe something as if it actually is something else.

For example: *He was a ray of sunshine.*

Personification is when we describe objects as if they act and feel like people do.

For example: *The flower drooped sadly towards the soil.*

Hyperbole is used to exaggerate, intensify and emphasise different ideas.

For example: *I've got a million things to do today.*

[If you have access to a computer, watch the video of poet Joseph Coelho explaining how figurative language can be used when writing a poem.](#)

Here are some more **figurative writing** techniques that you might know:

Alliteration is when you repeat the sounds at the start of words.

For example: *The tall tree towered over them.*

Onomatopoeia is when words sound like the noise they are describing.

For example: *Roar! Whizz! Pop!*

You can also write about the **five senses** (smell, taste, touch, sight and sound) to bring a poem to life for your reader.

Complete these activities

Activity 1

Can you match the different types of figurative language to the correct example? One has been done for you. This can also be completed on the website link above.

Top tip! Assonance is when a vowel sound is repeated in words close together. You might want to match this one up last.

Poetic Device		Example
Assonance		Drip. Drop. The water fell.
Metaphor		His performance was out of this world
Hyperbole		She has a lion's heart
Personification		The ball danced into the goal
Alliteration		Sizzling succulent sausages
Onomatopoeia		The unicorn flew like a jet
Similes		The sheep went to sleep in the heat

Activity 2

Think about a mountain setting. You might want to look up a picture to inspire you or close your eyes and imagine you are there.

Now, write 3 examples of **personification** and three examples of **onomatopoeia** related to your setting.

Here are some examples about a garden:

Personification	Onomatopoeia
The lights seemed to wink at each other.	Crunch (leaves)
The flowers danced in the wind.	Crash (bins)
The leaves chased each other into the gutter.	Splash (rain)

Personification	Onomatopoeia



Challenge:

Can you write a sentence using **alliteration** related to your chosen setting?
 For example: *The hungry, hedgehog hovered and hesitated near the plant pots.*

Handwriting

Extract from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter

Once upon a time there were four little rabbits, and their names were: Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and Peter. They lived with their mother in a sandbank, underneath the root of a very big fir tree.

"Now, my dears," said old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, "you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr. McGregor's garden - your Father had an accident there; he was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor. Now run along, and don't get into mischief. I am going out."

Then old Mrs. Rabbit took a basket and her umbrella and went through the wood to the baker's. She bought a loaf of brown bread and five currant buns.



Letter-join

You can complete the handwriting using the 'Handwriting line guides' which can be found on the website (where you found instructions for your work), or if you have a pack, they will be in there. Alternatively, if you think you have good control over the size of your letters, then you could work on lined paper or plain paper with guidelines.