# **Figurative Language**

# What is figurative language?

Figurative language is used to add style and variety to a piece of writing. It can also be used to more effectively illustrate or convey an idea, concept, or detail. This is a brief overview that will cover several of the more prominent and helpful figures of speech.

Similes A simile compares two things using “like” or “as.” This helps create more vivid images and can be used to convey a tone or connotation.   
“He was as fast as lightning.”  
“Her beady eyes were brown like dirt.”

MetaphorsA metaphor also compares two things, without using like or as, to create more vivid images and set a tone. “He was a hurricane who decimated everything in his path.”  
“His eyes were made of death.”

Onomatopoeia:  
An onomatopoeia is a textual representation of a sound. Think of comic books: “Bang!”  
“Woof, woof, woof.”

Alliteration Alliteration is the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words. “While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping.”“Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.”

PersonificationA personification adds human qualities to that which is not human. This can include giving human traits to animals, material objects, or even concepts and ideas. “The chair looked so very sad sitting alone in the corner.”“The ground opened up and devoured the entire town*.*”

Hyperbole   
A hyperbole is an exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.  
“China is so far away from us, that it might as well be Narnia.”   
“Sleeping is my favorite thing in the world.”

Allusion  
An allusion makes a reference to some known person, place, or some event and is meant to broaden the reader’s understanding. They do require a knowledge of what is being alluded to for them to be effective. It can reference anything real or imaginary, including paintings, opera, folk lore, mythical figures, or religious manuscripts. The reference can be direct or inferred.“Kevin had a Shrek-like appearance.”“The Big, Bad Wolf of taxes is coming to your door.”