

## MINI- LESSON WRITING

### Using Figurative Language

One important way of grabbing your readers' attention and creating interest in your personal reflection is to use **figurative language**—imaginative comparisons of something unfamiliar with something familiar. Using figurative language helps the reader to experience your events with you. These descriptions form memorable images that are clearer and more concrete.

Below are definitions and examples of three of the most common forms of figurative

language.

If you do use figures of speech, you should be careful to avoid figures of speech that are **clichés**—tired and overused phrases. Cliché include similes such as “fog as thick as pea soup,” metaphors such as “raining cats and dogs,” and personification such as “raging blizzard” or “Old Man Winter.” Clichés do not challenge readers to think of things in a new way and thus are not as fresh as figurative language should be.

A **simile** compares two things using *like* or *as*.

The smile spread across her face like autumn leaves across a crystal pond.

A **metaphor** says one thing *is* something else.

The smile was a lighthouse beacon illuminating the room.

**Personification** gives human characteristics to nonhuman things.

The smile knew it would make me look foolish, but it sprang forth regardless.

### PRACTICE

Using the following chart, create five figures of speech by comparing one word in column A with one word in column B.

Then, use each new figure of speech in a sentence. Use each of the three different figures of speech at least once. Put your answers on your own paper.

**Example:**

child, stamp

The frightened child clung to his mother like a stamp to an envelope.

Column A	Column B
fog	sand
puppy	stamp
sailboat	leaf
bicycle	ball
child	tablecloth
canyon	river
music	book
pencil	paint

## Writing similes and metaphors

Complete each sentence with a vivid, imaginative simile or metaphor. Label each completed sentence as simile or metaphor.

Ex. The hungry mosquitoes swooped toward the guests like dive bombers.  
Simile

1. To the baby security was

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2. The fly ball smashed into her glove like

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3. The massive black clouds were

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4. The shooting fireworks were as deafening as

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5. The lemon drink tasted like

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6. The earthquake made the room look like

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7. As she listened to his complaints, her eyes became

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8. The skunk spray smelled like

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9. At night, the trees bending in the wind became

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10. Under his feet, the soft ground was

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