

Sample Pages

October

in Figurative Language

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Featured Figures of Speech

Simile: A simile compares two things using the words *like* or *as*.
Alice started laughing like the Wicked Witch of the North.
My sister jumped around in the pile of leaves like a happy grasshopper.

Metaphor: A metaphor says that a person or thing is something other than what it really is. Metaphors make comparisons or suggest similarities between two unlike things without using the words *like* or *as*.
Dad is a monster before his morning coffee.
Our backyard is an orange sea of left-over pumpkin carvings.

Personification: Personification is a figure of speech in which nonhuman objects, organisms, or events are given human characteristics.
A flickering lamp peered at us from behind the curtain.
Blades of tall grass waved to each other in the breeze.
A cold wind lifted a pile of fallen leaves and pushed it along the street.

Hyperbole: A hyperbole uses exaggeration or overstatement for emphasis.
There must be a million cars parked at the mall.
McKenzie has a huge trick-or-treat bag because she intends to collect tons of candy.

Idiom: An idiom is a group of two or more words that mean something quite different from their individual, literal (real) definitions.
That noise is driving me up the wall. (The noise is irritating.)
Only minutes after the game ended, it started raining cats and dogs.
(There was a downpour)



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Part One

In the Northern Hemisphere, October brings cooler weather, neon-colored foliage, serious football competition, creating the perfect Halloween costume, and the anticipation of a fun evening of trick-or-treating. This kaleidoscopic month is tailor-made for figurative language.



All of the following sentences have an October connection. Each one is constructed around a *simile*, a *metaphor*, *personification*, a *hyperbole*, or an *idiom*. Read the sentence and then study its companion question. Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank to the left.

- _____ 1. Jason was a hungry goblin wolfing down a handful of miniature candy bars.
The figure of speech in this sentence is (A) a simile, (B) a metaphor, (C) a hyperbole, (D) an idiom.
- _____ 2. Tattered curtains hanging in the windows waved to groups of trick-or-treaters who scurried by.
What figure of speech is present in this sentence?
(A) a simile, (B) a metaphor, (C) personification, (D) a hyperbole
- _____ 3. The sudden chill in the air took my breath away.
The *idiom* in this sentence is (A) sudden chill, (B) in the air, (C) the air took, (D) took my breath away.
- _____ 4. Shadows from the tree's limbs reached out like an octopus and grabbed at the sidewalk.
The simile in this sentence compares (A) shadows to octopus arms, (B) a tree to shadows, (C) a tree to an octopus, (D) an octopus to a sidewalk.
- _____ 5. One corner of our back yard is buried under a million leaves that have blown into a drift against the fence.
This sentence illustrates the use of (A) a simile, (B) a metaphor, (C) an idiom, (D) a hyperbole.
- _____ 6. Dad is a library of information about all the natural phenomena behind seasonal changes.
The metaphor in the above sentence indicates that Dad (A) talks about the weather a lot, (B) knows a lot about the weather, (C) has a job that involves the weather, (D) is a teacher.
- _____ 7. Lonnie howled like a coyote when her brother scored the winning touchdown.
What two things are compared in this sentence's *simile*? (A) the touchdown and Lonnie's brother, (B) a score and a coyote, (C) the sound that Lonnie made to a coyote's howl, (D) Lonnie's excitement to winning

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- _____ 8. “October’s poplars are flaming torches lighting the way to winter.” Nova Bair, American poet and musician
What is the figure of speech in this sentence? (A) a simile, (B) a metaphor, (C) personification, (D) a hyperbole.
- _____ 9. *A row of flickering jack-o-lanterns grinned at us menacingly as we made our way to the front door.*
The *personification* in this sentence gives a human characteristic to (A) a door, (B) trick-or-treaters, (C) jack-o-lanterns, (D) a candle.
- _____ 10. *Oh, so carefully I carried my mile-high ice-cream cone across the freshly raked yard and climbed the ladder to my tree house.*
The *hyperbole* in the above sentence is (A) the freshly raked yard, (B) mile-high ice-cream cone, (C) climbed the ladder, (D) Oh, so carefully.
- _____ 11. *The moon was a huge, orange eye looking down from the night sky.*
Which of the following changes the *metaphor* in this sentence to a *simile*?
(A) The moon was like a huge orange eye looking down from the night sky.
(B) The moon was a huge orange eye in the night sky.
(C) The moon looked down from the night sky.
(D) The moon was huge and orange.
- _____ 12. *His steely stare was as cold as an Arctic wind.*
The *simile* in this sentence compares (A) steely to a stare, (B) a stare to an Arctic wind, (C) cold to the Arctic, (D) cold to a wind.