

ENGLISH · GRADES 4–5

Figurative Language

Six techniques every writer should know

The six techniques

1

Simile

Compares two things using 'like' or 'as'.

Example: The lake was as still as glass.

2

Metaphor

Says one thing IS another (without 'like' or 'as').

Example: Her voice was thunder.

3

Personification

Gives human qualities to non-human things.

Example: The wind whispered through the trees.

4

Alliteration

Repeats the same sound at the start of nearby words.

Example: Slippery silver salmon swam swiftly.

5

Onomatopoeia

Words that sound like the noise they describe.

Example: The bacon sizzled and popped.

6

Hyperbole

An obvious exaggeration for effect.

Example: I've told you a million times!

