

## Types of Figurative Language

- Personification - Giving something non-human, or an object, human characteristics.
  - Example: “The run down old house at the end of the deserted gravel road appeared depressed.”
  - Explanation: Depression is a human emotion; houses cannot be depressed.
- Hyperbole - An exaggeration so dramatic that no one would believe its true.
  - Example: I could eat a horse!
  - Explanation: Everyone knows that nobody could actually be hungry enough to eat a horse.
- Metaphor - A statement that is a comparison of two things that are not alike. Metaphors DO NOT use like or as to compare.
  - Example: Freddie is a pig when he eats.
  - Meaning: Both Freddie and a pig are sloppy eaters.
- Alliteration - When a set of words uses the same sound or letters repeatedly.
  - Example: “Susie sang softly while sitting on the sand in the sunshine.”
- Simile - A comparison of two things that are not alike; uses “like” or “as”.
  - Example: He is as brave as a lion.
  - Explanation: He is very brave.
- Onomatopoeia - Sound words.
  - Examples: Snap! Pop! Bang!
- Idioms - A set of words that can have more than one meaning behind them.
  - Example: Those shoes are “a dime a dozen.”
  - Explanation: The shoes are very common and easy to get.
- Symbolism - The use of symbols to represent ideas.
  - Example: Hearts are used to represent love.
- Oxymoron - A comparison of two things that contradict.
  - Example: We had jumbo shrimp for dinner.
  - Explanation: Usually jumbo refers to something big and shrimp means small, but jumbo shrimp are shrimp that are large.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

*Mississippi Trial, 1955* Figurative Language Worksheet

**Chapters 1-4**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ “All my life, if the word [hate] slipped out of my mouth, he’d snap into me faster than a rattlesnake.”
  - Meaning: To yell at someone.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ “Hiram,” he’d say, straightening up tall like a preacher.
  - Meaning: To be proud or brave.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Grampa often got mad like that: lightning quick, fast and without warning.
  - Meaning: To get mad quickly.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ But don’t you go blaming me if I pop open and spray you all like a hot can of beer.
  - Meaning: To suddenly get very angry.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ They moved like two old cows up on their hind legs.
  - Meaning: To move very awkwardly.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ She always seemed skittish, kind of like a cat that’s been kicked around too many times.
  - Meaning: To act afraid because you have been beaten up a lot.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Ain’t Hiram a regular old Romeo?
  - Meaning: To act charming.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Both men looked about as comfortable as cows in a slaughterhouse.
  - Meaning: To look very uncomfortable.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ He’s a rock, a real Gibraltar.
  - Meaning: To be very solid or something that cannot be destroyed.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Watching Gramma’s coffin get lowered into that grave just about broke me in half.
  - Meaning: To get very upset.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ I’d argue with Dad about it, but he was as stubborn as a stump.
  - Meaning: To be unlikely to change your mind about something.

**On the back of this piece of paper, chose one question to draw. ☺**

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**Chapters 5-11**

12. \_\_\_\_\_ I knew Ralph was an egg or two short of a dozen.  
▪ Meaning: To be lacking intelligence.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ I felt as dumb as a brick.  
▪ Meaning: To be lacking intelligence.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ I'd sworn you were Harlan himself, yes sir. A plain mirror image of your father.  
▪ Meaning: To look exactly like something else.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Her low-down father treats her worse than the family mule.  
▪ Meaning: To work very hard.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Oh yeah, I forgot about you two. Regular little lovebirds when you were here before.  
▪ Meaning: Two people who are in love.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ He stopped dead in front of us like an old cow caught in the glare of a car's headlights.  
▪ Meaning: To be so surprised or frightened that you cannot move or think.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ I wish he'd turn over a new leaf.  
▪ Meaning: To start over again.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ R.C. can be a real headache when he is around.  
▪ Meaning: To bother someone or to make someone angry.
20. \_\_\_\_\_ My life felt like it had been tied up into one giant knot, one that would take a long time to untangle.  
▪ Meaning: To be very confused or upset when you are trying to make a decision or solve a problem.

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**Chapters 12-17**

21. \_\_\_\_\_ Those ignorant boys have stirred up a hornet's nest of trouble.  
▪ Meaning: To make people angry.
22. \_\_\_\_\_ A loud knock on the front door just about pushed my heart through my chest.  
▪ Meaning: To be scared.
23. \_\_\_\_\_ He was dead asleep.  
▪ Meaning: To sleep very well.
24. \_\_\_\_\_ It was like opening my own coffin.  
▪ Meaning: To do something dangerous.
25. \_\_\_\_\_ R.C. scares me to death.  
▪ Meaning: To be extremely frightened.
26. \_\_\_\_\_ I felt like someone had knocked the wind out of me.  
▪ Meaning: To fall or be hit so hard that it's hard to breathe.
27. \_\_\_\_\_ House's a damn pigsty!  
▪ Meaning: To be is very messy or dirty.
28. \_\_\_\_\_ I whaled on Pa like I was some kind of machine.  
▪ Meaning: To punch or attack someone.
29. \_\_\_\_\_ The breakfast I had just eaten felt like rocks in my stomach.  
▪ Meaning: To feel very full.

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