Figurative language

Sheet 9

Read through the descriptions of figurative language below and answer the questions.

Metaphor

1. A metaphor is a word or phrase given to an object or concept that is not meant to be taken literally, for example: ‘He had a heart of stone’ means he was not very caring, not that his heart was actually made of stone.

   a. Tick the sentence below which is an example of a metaphor.

   ☐ My new puppy is a real pig when he eats his dinner.

   ☐ My old dog snoozes lazily in the sun.

   b. Write a metaphor below to describe a character, setting, object or event from your chosen novel.

Simile

2. A simile is a literary device used to create a comparison between different things, using the words ‘like’ or ‘as’. For example: ‘The girl was like a racehorse on the athletics track.’; ‘He was as fast as a flash of lightning.’

   a. Tick the sentence below which is an example of a simile.

   ☐ My new hat was red with a fuzzy pom-pom.

   ☐ My new jumper was as fluffy as a kitten.

   b. Write a simile below to describe a character, setting, object or event from your chosen novel.

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Idiom

3. An idiom is a phrase or expression that has a meaning that is different to the literal (exact) meaning. Idioms are usually only understood by the people of the culture they are used in. For example, the idiom 'curiosity killed the cat' does not mean that a cat was actually killed by curiosity; it means that if you are too nosey, you will end up in trouble.

   a. Tick the expressions below that are examples of idioms.

   - ☐ Beating around the bush
   - ☐ Dropping like flies
   - ☐ The soaring pelican
   - ☐ Break a leg
   - ☐ The thundering of hooves
   - ☐ Great minds think alike

Personification

4. Personification is a literary device that gives human qualities to something that is not human, for example: 'The wattle blossoms danced in the breeze.'

   a. Tick the expressions below that are examples of personification.

   - ☐ The ancient fortress squatted on the hill, frowning down upon the valley below.
   - ☐ The bees buzzed quietly in the summer sunshine.
   - ☐ The girl ran swiftly over the frosty ground.
   - ☐ The fields slept under a blanket of snow.
   - ☐ The forest guarded the tiny cottage.

   b. Use personification to describe a setting (for example: a castle, a garden, a school).

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound it describes, for example ‘clang’, ‘moo’, and ‘babble’.

5. List the examples of onomatopoeia in the following examples.

- The sausages sizzled on the barbecue. _____
- The babbling of the brook was like music. _____
- The twanging and clanging cowbells. _____
- The hens cackled in the coop. _____

