

## Standards Focus: Figurative Language

One of the most captivating aspects of *Brave New World* is Huxley's use of **figurative language**, or ideas communicated beyond their literal meaning to create an image in the reader's or audience's mind. Huxley is able to create an image in our minds of the environment of this new world, just by his choice of words. There are several types of figurative language, called **figures of speech**:

- **metaphor**- a comparison made between two unlike objects: "the pillow was a cloud"
- **simile**- a comparison between two unlike objects using the words "like" or "as" in the comparison: "the pillow was like a marshmallow"
- **imagery**- using words to appeal to the senses, i.e. sight, sound, taste, touch, and hearing
- **personification**- giving human qualities or characteristics to non-human objects: "the wind sang its sad song"

*Directions: For each excerpt, identify the type of figurative language that is being used: metaphor, simile, imagery, or personification. Then identify the effect of these particular words on the reader. An example has been done for you.*

**Example:** The overalls of the workers were white, their hands gloved with a pale corpse-coloured rubber.

**Type:** Imagery      **Effect:** A feeling of stark lifelessness in this place that is supposed to be giving life (the Hatchery); the author uses the word "corpse" which again reiterates death

1. The light was frozen, dead, a ghost.

**Type:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Effect:**

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2. Machinery faintly purred.

**Type:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Effect:**

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3. And in effect the sultry darkness into which the students now followed him was visible and crimson, like the darkness of closed eyes on a summer's afternoon.

**Type:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Effect:**

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4. Like chickens drinking, the students lifted their eyes towards the distant ceiling.

**Type:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Effect:**

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**MORE PRACTICE IN FULL VERSION!**