

Standards Focus: Figurative Language

One of the most captivating aspects of good literature is the use of **figurative language**, or ideas communicated beyond their literal meaning to create an image in the reader's or audience's mind. There are several types of figurative language, also called figures of speech:

- **metaphor**- a comparison made between two unlike objects: "The pillow was a cloud."
- **simile**- a comparison made between two unlike objects, using the words "like" or "as" in the comparison: "The pillow was like a marshmallow."
- **personification**- giving human qualities or characteristics to non-human objects: "The wind sang its sad song."
- **hyperbole**- truth is exaggerated for humor or emphasis: "I died when the boy I like finally talked to me."

Directions: Read each quote from Chapter One. Underline the figure of speech in the sentence, then decide what type of figure of speech it is. Finally identify the comparison being made or the object being personified or exaggerated. An example has been done for you.

Ex. "He was clambering heavily among the creepers and broken trunks when a bird, a vision of red and yellow, flashed upwards with a witch-like cry...." (pg. 7)

Figure of Speech: simile

Analysis: The shriek cry of the bird is compared with the cackling sound made by a witch.

1. "In a few seconds the fat boy's grunts were behind him and he was hurrying toward the screen that still lay between him and the lagoon." (9)

Figure of Speech: _____

Analysis: _____

2. "...palm trees stood or leaned or reclined against the light and their green feathers were a hundred feet up in the air." (9)

Figure of Speech: _____

Analysis: _____

3. "Within the irregular arc of coral the lagoon was still as a mountain lake—blue of all shades and shadowy green and purple." (10)

Figure of Speech: _____

Analysis: _____

4. "...the island ran true to form and the incredible pool, which clearly was only invaded by the sea at high tide, was so deep at one end as to be dark green." (12)

Figure of Speech: _____

Analysis: _____