

**Standards Focus: Imagery**

One of the most captivating aspects of *Macbeth* is Shakespeare's use of **imagery**, or words or phrases that appeal to the senses of the reader. Imagery is usually developed through the use of **figurative language**, or words that are used to convey images beyond their literal sense. There are several types of figurative language, called **figures of speech**:

- **metaphor**- a comparison made between two unlike objects
- **simile**- a comparison between two unlike objects using the words "like" or "as"
- **personification**- giving human qualities or characteristics to non-human objects
- **hyperbole**- truth is exaggerated for humor or emphasis

*Directions: Read each excerpt from Acts One-Three. Decide what figure of speech has been underlined. For part "b. Imagery," identify the comparison being made, the object being personified, or the phrase which is exaggerated. The numbers in parenthesis represent the act, then the scene in which the quote appears.*

1. If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me. (Act 1. Scene 3)
  - a. Figure of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Imagery: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Come what come may, / Time and the hour runs through the roughest day. (1. 3)
  - a. Figure of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Imagery: \_\_\_\_\_
3. More is thy due than more than all can pay. (1. 4)
  - a. Figure of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Imagery: \_\_\_\_\_
4. That my keen knife see not the wound it makes, / Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark, To cry, 'Hold, hold!' (1. 5)
  - a. Figure of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Imagery: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower, / But be the serpent under 't. (1. 5)
  - a. Figure of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Imagery: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood / Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather / The multitudinous seas incarnadine, / Making the green one red. (2. 2)
  - a. Figure of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Imagery: \_\_\_\_\_
7. I am in blood / Stepped in so far that, should I wade no more (3. 4)
  - a. Figure of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Imagery: \_\_\_\_\_