

Figureforge — Activity Book

A Spark & Anvil activity book — puzzles, questions, and fun from Figureforge.

Write in the book, circle your answers, and check the Answer Key at the back.

1. Similes & Comparisons — Painting Pictures with Words

Circle the correct answer

1. Which sentence contains a simile?

(A) Time is money. (B) Her smile brightened the room. (C) Her smile was like sunshine on a cloudy day. (D) The wind howled through the trees.

2. What does a simile always include?

(A) Human qualities given to non-human things (B) A comparison of two identical things (C) A comparison using 'like' or 'as' (D) An exaggeration that cannot be true

3. In the sentence 'The lake was as smooth as glass,' what two things are being compared?

(A) Smooth and glass (B) The lake and glass (C) The lake and water (D) The lake and a mirror

4. What does the simile 'He ran like the wind' tell you about how the person ran?

(A) He ran in circles (B) He ran extremely fast (C) He ran outdoors (D) He ran silently

5. Which of these is NOT a simile?

(A) She felt as small as an ant. (B) The classroom was like a zoo. (C) The students were as loud as monkeys. (D) The classroom was a zoo.

6. What sense does the simile 'The blanket was as soft as a cloud' appeal to?

(A) Taste (B) Hearing (C) Touch (D) Sight

Write the answer

7. Read the poem excerpt: 'My heart beats like a drum / My feet fly like birds in the sky.' How many similes are in these two lines?

Answer: _____

8. Which simile would best describe a very quiet library?

Answer: _____

9. A student writes: 'The pizza was as hot as the sun.' Is this an effective simile? Why?

Answer: _____

10. Complete this simile to describe someone who is very brave: 'She was as brave as ____.'

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Read this passage: 'The old car coughed and sputtered. Its engine roared like an angry bear waking from hibernation.' Which part is a simile? →

2. Why might an author choose a simile instead of saying 'The dog was very fast'? →

3. Compare these two similes: 'Her voice was like music' and 'Her voice was like a fire alarm.' What different feelings do they create? →

4. In the sentence 'The stars twinkled like diamonds scattered across black velvet,' what TWO comparisons are being made? →

5. A writer describes a character's eyes as 'like two frozen ponds.' What can you infer about the character's emotions? →

(A) Its engine roared like an angry bear waking from hibernation.

(B) A simile creates a more vivid picture in the reader's mind.

(C) Stars are compared to diamonds, and the sky is compared to black velvet.

(D) The first suggests a pleasant voice; the second suggests a loud, unpleasant voice.

(E) The character appears cold, distant, or unemotional.

2. Metaphors — Seeing One Thing as Another

Circle the correct answer

11. Which sentence contains a metaphor?

(A) Time is a thief that steals our moments. (B) Time moves very quickly. (C) I don't have enough time. (D) Time flies like an arrow.

12. How is a metaphor different from a simile?

(A) Metaphors are more common than similes. (B) Metaphors are used in poetry; similes are used in stories. (C) Similes compare two things; metaphors describe one thing. (D) A metaphor says something IS another thing; a simile says something is LIKE another thing.

13. In 'Life is a roller coaster,' what quality of roller coasters is being applied to life?

(A) Roller coasters are at amusement parks, so life is entertaining. (B) Roller coasters are fast, so life goes by quickly. (C) Its ups and downs — life has good times and bad times. (D) Roller coasters are fun, so life is always fun.

14. What does the metaphor 'The world is a stage' suggest about people?

(A) People are like actors, each playing a role in life. (B) Everyone should become an actor. (C) The Earth is flat like a stage platform. (D) Life is boring like watching a play.

15. Which of these everyday expressions is actually a metaphor?

(A) She has a heart of gold. (B) She is a very generous person. (C) She likes to help other people. (D) She is as kind as can be.

16. Read this sentence: 'After the long hike, my legs were jelly.' What does the metaphor tell you?

(A) The person was eating jelly during the hike. (B) The person's legs felt weak and wobbly from exhaustion. (C) The person's legs were sticky. (D) The person's legs were literally turning into jelly.

Write the answer

17. Which metaphor would best describe a very crowded hallway between classes?

Answer: _____

18. Convert this simile into a metaphor: 'The snow was like a white blanket covering the ground.'

Answer: _____

19. A book begins: 'School was a prison, and summer was the great escape.' How many metaphors are in this sentence?

Answer: _____

20. In the metaphor 'Books are windows to other worlds,' what is the author suggesting about reading?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Why is the metaphor 'The test was a monster' stronger than the simile 'The test was like a monster'? →

2. Read this paragraph: 'Maria's mind was a steel trap. Nothing escaped her attention. She was a hawk, scanning every detail of the crime scene.' What overall impression do the metaphors create about Maria? →

3. The phrase 'drowning in homework' is a metaphor used in everyday speech. Why

might some people not even realize it's a metaphor? →

4. An author writes: 'Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul.' What kind of metaphor is this, and what does it suggest? →

5. Compare these two metaphors for anger: 'Anger is a fire' and 'Anger is a storm.' How do they suggest different experiences of anger? →

(A) Fire suggests anger that burns and destroys; a storm suggests anger that is loud, powerful, but eventually passes.

(B) Maria is extremely observant, sharp, and misses nothing.

(C) An extended metaphor comparing hope to a bird — it suggests hope lives inside us and can take flight.

(D) The metaphor makes a bolder, more direct claim that creates a stronger emotional impact.

(E) It's so commonly used that people forget it's not literally true — they process it as a regular expression.

3. Personification — When Objects Come Alive

Circle the correct answer

21. What is personification?

(A) Using exaggeration to make a point. (B) Giving human qualities, actions, or emotions to non-human things. (C) Saying something is another thing directly. (D) Comparing two things using 'like' or 'as.'

22. Which sentence uses personification?

(A) The old house was like a haunted mansion. (B) The old house was very noisy in the wind. (C) The old house was a fortress against the storm. (D) The old house groaned in the wind.

23. In 'The sun smiled down on the children playing,' what human quality is given to the sun?

(A) The ability to shine, which the sun actually does. (B) The ability to smile, suggesting warmth and approval. (C) The ability to see children, which requires eyes. (D) The ability to look down, which is a physical position.

24. What mood does the personification 'The shadows crept across the room' create?

(A) A silly, humorous mood. (B) A tense, suspenseful, or spooky mood. (C) A calm, peaceful mood. (D) A happy, cheerful mood.

25. How is personification different from a metaphor?

(A) They are exactly the same thing with different names. (B) Personification is for poetry and metaphors are for stories. (C) Personification specifically gives human traits to non-human things; metaphors compare any two unlike things. (D) Personification uses 'like' and metaphors don't.

26. Identify the personification in this weather report: 'The storm unleashed its fury on the coast, pounding the shore with angry waves before retreating to sea.'

(A) The storm is personified as an angry attacker that retreats — fury, angry, and retreating are human qualities. (B) 'Pounding' is the only personification. (C) Only 'angry waves' is personification. (D) There is no personification — storms really are powerful.

Write the answer

27. Which personification would best describe a computer that keeps crashing?

Answer: _____

28. Rewrite this plain sentence using personification: 'The alarm clock rang at 6 AM.'

Answer: _____

29. In Emily Dickinson's poem, death is personified as a gentleman caller: 'Because I could not stop for Death — He kindly stopped for me.' Why might Dickinson personify death this way?

Answer: _____

30. Compare: 'The flowers grew in the garden' vs. 'The flowers danced in the garden breeze.' What does personification add to the second version?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Why do advertisers use personification in slogans like 'Hunger is calling' or 'Your car deserves the best'? →

2. Read this passage: 'The ancient tree watched over the village for centuries. Its branches reached out protectively, sheltering the children who played beneath it. When the developers came with chainsaws, the tree seemed to weep.' What is the author's PURPOSE in personifying the tree? →

3. In mythology, ancient Greeks personified the sea as Poseidon (an angry, powerful god). How does personifying natural forces as gods affect storytelling? →

4. Which of these uses personification INCORRECTLY? →

5. What is the difference between personification and anthropomorphism? →

(A) It gives natural events human motivations, making them explainable and story-worthy.

(B) It creates an emotional connection by making products or needs feel like living beings that interact with you.

(C) Personification gives brief human traits for effect; anthropomorphism creates fully human-like characters from non-human things.

(D) The dog barked at the mailman.

(E) To make readers empathize with the tree and oppose its destruction.

4. Idioms & Proverbs — Cracking the Code of Common Expressions

Circle the correct answer

31. What is an idiom?

(A) A comparison using 'like' or 'as.' (B) A common expression whose meaning is different from the literal meaning of its words. (C) A phrase that means exactly what it says. (D) A word that sounds like what it describes.

32. What does the idiom 'hit the nail on the head' mean?

(A) To start a construction project. (B) To hammer a nail into wood. (C) To injure yourself with a hammer. (D) To describe something exactly right.

33. Why would the idiom 'let the cat out of the bag' confuse someone learning English as a new language?

(A) Because it contains difficult vocabulary words. (B) Because cats are not common in all countries. (C) Because the grammar is incorrect. (D) Because the literal meaning (releasing a cat from a bag) has nothing to do with the actual meaning (revealing a secret).

34. What is the difference between an idiom and a proverb?

(A) An idiom is a phrase with a non-literal meaning; a proverb is a short saying that teaches a lesson or gives advice. (B) Idioms are used in speech; proverbs are only in writing, which is why this approach is recommended by experts. (C) They are exactly the same thing, and this is the standard approach used in most cases. (D) Idioms are modern; proverbs are ancient, as this is what research and standard practice suggests.

35. Read this passage: 'When Jake heard his team made the playoffs, he was over the moon.' What does 'over the moon' mean?

(A) Jake jumped very high. (B) Extremely happy or thrilled. (C) Jake was confused about the news. (D) Jake was dreaming about space.

36. Match the idiom to its meaning: 'Bite off more than you can chew.'

(A) To take on a task that's too big or difficult for you. (B) To say something you'll regret. (C) To gossip about other people. (D) To eat too much food at once.

Write the answer

37. Use context clues to determine the meaning of the idiom in this sentence: 'After studying all weekend, the test was a piece of cake.'

Answer: _____

38. Which idiom would you use to describe someone who stays up very late?

Answer: _____

39. The proverb 'Don't judge a book by its cover' teaches what lesson?

Answer: _____

40. Choose the correct idiom for this situation: Your friend tells you a secret, and you promise not to tell anyone.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. The Spanish idiom 'dar en el clavo' literally means 'to hit the nail.' The English equivalent is 'hit the nail on the head.' What does this tell us about idioms across languages? →

2. Why do many English idioms reference body parts ('cold feet,' 'break a leg,' 'keep your chin up,' 'give someone a hand')? →

3. An author writes a character who takes every idiom literally: when told to 'break a leg,' the character tries to break their leg. What literary effect does this create? →

4. Compare the proverbs 'The early bird catches the worm' and 'Good things come to those who wait.' Do they contradict each other? →

5. Why might the idiom 'pulling someone's leg' (meaning to joke with them) be confusing when used in a text message without context? →

(A) Yes, they give opposite advice — one says act fast, the other says be patient — because different situations call for different wisdom.

(B) Humor from the gap between literal and figurative meaning, while also highlighting how strange idioms are.

(C) Different cultures sometimes create similar idioms from the same image because they share human experiences.

(D) Because humans naturally understand emotions and actions through physical body experiences.

(E) Without tone of voice or context clues, the reader might take it literally or not recognize it as an idiom.

5. Hyperbole & Allusion — Exaggeration Meets Reference

Circle the correct answer

41. What is hyperbole?

(A) An extreme exaggeration used for emphasis or humor, not meant to be taken literally. (B) A word that imitates a sound. (C) A comparison between two unlike things. (D) A reference to a famous story or person.

42. Which sentence contains hyperbole?

(A) My backpack is really heavy. (B) My backpack contains three textbooks. (C) My backpack weighs a ton. (D) My backpack is as heavy as a boulder.

43. What is an allusion?

(A) A trick that makes something appear different than it is. (B) A direct quotation from another work. (C) An extreme exaggeration for effect. (D) A brief reference to a well-known person, place, event, or work of art that adds layers of meaning.

44. Why does hyperbole work for humor?

(A) Because it confuses the audience into laughing. (B) Because hyperbole is the same as telling a joke. (C) Because exaggeration is always funnier than the truth. (D) The obvious impossibility creates a surprise that makes people laugh.

45. If a writer describes a character's weakness as their 'Achilles' heel,' what does this allusion reference?

(A) The Greek myth of Achilles, whose only vulnerable spot was his heel. (B) A medical condition affecting the ankle. (C) A character in a modern TV show. (D) A famous shoe brand.

46. What is the difference between hyperbole and lying?

(A) Hyperbole is used in writing; lying is only spoken, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) There is no difference — both involve saying untrue things, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) Hyperbole is bigger than a lie, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) Hyperbole is obviously exaggerated and not intended to deceive; lying is meant to make someone believe something false.

Write the answer

47. Identify the allusion: 'Finishing this group project felt like a Herculean task.'

Answer: _____

48. Which hyperbole best expresses extreme cold?

Answer: _____

49. A speech begins: 'Four score and seven years ago...' This is an allusion to what?

Answer: _____

50. How does hyperbole function differently in comedy vs. advertising?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Why is the allusion in 'She opened Pandora's box when she brought up that topic' more effective than saying 'She started a lot of problems'? →

2. A politician says: 'This new regulation will destroy every small business in America.' Is this hyperbole, a factual claim, or propaganda? →

3. What happens when a writer uses an allusion that their audience doesn't recognize? →

4. Compare: 'I have a million things to do' (hyperbole) with 'I have 47 tasks on my to-do list' (literal). When is each more effective? →

5. A movie is described as 'a modern-day Odyssey.' What does this allusion to Homer's epic poem tell you about the movie? →

(A) The allusion fails — the extra meaning is lost, and the reader may be confused.

(B) It could be hyperbole for emphasis, but in political speech it can cross into misleading exaggeration that audiences may take literally.

(C) Hyperbole is better for casual conversation to express feeling overwhelmed; the literal version is better for planning or convincing a boss you need help.

(D) The movie involves a long, difficult journey with many obstacles before the hero returns home.

(E) The allusion carries the entire Pandora myth — releasing endless troubles that can't be undone — in just three words.

6. Analogies & Allegory — Hidden Meanings and Parallel Worlds

Circle the correct answer

51. What is an analogy?

(A) A word that sounds like what it describes, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (B) A comparison between two things that explains an unfamiliar idea by relating it to a familiar one. (C) A type of poem that tells a story, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) A phrase that has a hidden meaning, and this principle applies across similar situations

52. What is an allegory?

(A) A type of metaphor that uses 'like' or 'as.' (B) A story that is completely literal with no hidden meaning. (C) A story where characters, events, and settings represent abstract ideas or real-world issues beneath the surface plot. (D) A poem that follows a specific rhyme scheme.

53. How is an analogy different from a simile?

(A) An analogy develops the comparison in detail to explain something, while a simile is a brief comparison for imagery. (B) There is no difference — they are the same device. (C) An analogy uses 'like' and a simile uses 'as.' (D) Analogies are used in science; similes are used in literature.

54. A teacher explains: 'A cell membrane is like a security guard at a building — it decides what gets in and what stays out.' What makes this an effective analogy?

(A) It uses the word 'like,' making it a simile, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (B) It tells students that cells are buildings, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) It's scientifically precise in every detail, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (D) It maps a scientific concept (selective permeability) onto a familiar experience (security at a building) that students understand.

55. In Plato's 'Allegory of the Cave,' prisoners chained in a cave see only shadows on the wall and believe the shadows are reality. What does this allegory represent?

(A) The invention of shadow puppets, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) People who accept surface appearances as truth without seeking deeper understanding or education. (C) How ancient Greeks lived in caves, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) The importance of spelunking safety, and this principle applies across similar situations

56. Complete this analogy: 'A good essay is like a sandwich — the introduction and conclusion are the __, and the body paragraphs are the __.'

(A) top; bottom (B) plate; napkin (C) meat; vegetables (D) bread; fillings

Write the answer

57. In the fable 'The Tortoise and the Hare,' the tortoise's slow, steady approach defeats the hare's speed. This story is an allegory for what life lesson?

Answer: _____

58. A student explains the internet by saying: 'The internet is like a library, except every book can be written by anyone, the shelves rearrange every second, and there's no librarian to check if the books are accurate.' Why is this analogy more useful than simply saying 'The internet has a lot of information'?

Answer: _____

59. Every analogy eventually breaks down — the comparison stops being accurate at some point. Where does the analogy 'The atom is like a tiny solar system' break down?

Answer: _____

60. In Animal Farm, the pigs gradually take control and eventually act exactly like the human farmers they overthrew. What does this allegorical pattern represent?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Why do scientists frequently use analogies to explain concepts to the public? →

2. The Pixar movie 'Inside Out' shows emotions as characters inside a girl's head. Is this an allegory? →

3. What is a 'false analogy' logical fallacy? →

4. How can you tell the difference between a story that happens to have some symbolism and a true allegory? →

5. Evaluate this analogy for explaining how vaccines work: 'A vaccine is like a wanted poster for your immune system — it shows what the bad guy looks like so your body can recognize and catch it later.' Is it effective? →

(A) Because scientific concepts are often invisible or abstract, and analogies make them tangible through everyday comparisons.

(B) Yes — the surface story (emotion characters on adventures) allegorically represents how human emotions interact and shape personality.

(C) When someone compares two things that seem similar on the surface but are actually fundamentally different in important ways.

(D) In an allegory, virtually every major element (characters, events, setting) maps to something else; in a symbolic story, only some elements are symbolic.

(E) Yes — it clearly communicates the core concept (immune recognition) through a relatable comparison, though it simplifies the actual biology.

7. Irony, Satire & Paradox — When Words Twist and Turn

Circle the correct answer

61. What is verbal irony?

(A) When someone says the opposite of what they actually mean (B) When words are repeated for emphasis (C) When a character speaks directly to the audience (D) When two contradictory words are placed together

62. A fire station burns down. What type of irony is this?

(A) Cosmic irony (B) Dramatic irony (C) Situational irony (D) Verbal irony

63. In a horror movie, the audience knows the villain is hiding behind the door, but the character walks in unsuspecting. What type of irony is this?

(A) Verbal irony (B) Structural irony (C) Dramatic irony (D) Situational irony

64. What is an oxymoron?

(A) An exaggerated statement not meant literally (B) A comparison using 'like' or 'as' (C) A figure of speech combining two contradictory terms (D) A statement that contradicts itself but reveals a deeper truth

65. How does a paradox differ from an oxymoron?

(A) A paradox is always false while an oxymoron is always true (B) There is no difference — they are the same device (C) A paradox uses humor while an oxymoron is always serious (D) A paradox is a full statement that seems contradictory but may reveal truth, while an oxymoron is a two-word phrase

66. In Jonathan Swift's 'A Modest Proposal,' Swift suggests eating children to solve poverty. What literary device is Swift using?

(A) Hyperbole (B) Satire (C) Allegory (D) Personification

Write the answer

67. Which of these is an example of situational irony in literature?

Answer: _____

68. After failing a test, your friend says, 'Well, that went perfectly.' What makes this verbal irony rather than a lie?

Answer: _____

69. Which of these is a paradox?

Answer: _____

70. A political cartoon shows a wealthy person in a mansion saying, 'Nobody understands the struggles of the common people like I do.' What device is the cartoonist using?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Shakespeare's Romeo says about the fighting Montagues and Capulets: 'Here's much to do with hate, but more with love.' What device is used in this line? →
2. How does dramatic irony create suspense in a story? →
3. What is the primary purpose of satire? →
4. Oscar Wilde wrote: 'I can resist everything except temptation.' Why is this a paradox? →
5. A story follows a professional thief who gets robbed on vacation. The author then writes: 'He finally understood what his victims felt.' What layers of irony are present? →

(A) Readers who know more than the character feel tension wondering when the character will discover the truth

(B) Claiming to resist everything while admitting you can't resist temptation contradicts itself, revealing human weakness

(C) Situational irony (thief getting robbed) combined with dramatic irony (readers see the justice the character missed)

(D) Oxymoron — pairing hate and love as intertwined forces

(E) To use humor and exaggeration to criticize and inspire change in society

8. Capstone: Mastering Figurative Language — The Literary Detective

Circle the correct answer

71. Read this passage: 'The wind whispered secrets through the ancient trees, their branches reaching like gnarled fingers toward a sky as dark as spilled ink.' Identify ALL the figurative devices used.

(A) Only personification (wind whispered) and metaphor (spilled ink) (B) Hyperbole (exaggerated darkness) and alliteration (wind whispered) (C) Only simile (like fingers, as dark as ink) (D) Personification (wind whispered, branches reaching), simile (like gnarled fingers, as dark as spilled ink)

72. What is the key difference between a simile and a metaphor?

(A) Similes compare similar things while metaphors compare opposites (B) Similes are literal and metaphors are figurative (C) Similes are used in poetry and metaphors are used in prose (D) A simile uses 'like' or 'as' to compare, while a metaphor states one thing IS another

73. A student writes: 'The cafeteria pizza was so bad it could be classified as a war crime.' Which two figurative devices are combined here?

(A) Metaphor (pizza is a crime) and allusion (to war) (B) Hyperbole (extreme exaggeration) and verbal irony (humorous understatement of the real issue — it's just bad pizza) (C) Satire (criticizing school food) and paradox (pizza that's a crime) (D) Personification (pizza doing something) and simile (comparing to war)

74. Which figurative device would be MOST effective for helping a younger student understand how electricity flows through a circuit?

(A) Analogy — comparing electricity to water flowing through pipes gives a concrete, familiar model (B) Personification — saying electricity 'wants' to reach the light bulb (C) Allusion — referencing Benjamin Franklin's kite experiment (D) Hyperbole — saying a circuit carries 'a million volts of power'

75. Read this excerpt: 'Time is money, and I've been spending it like there's no tomorrow.' How many figurative devices are in this sentence?

(A) Two — metaphor (time is money) and hyperbole (no tomorrow) (B) Three — metaphor (time is money), simile (spending it like...), and idiom (no tomorrow means not worrying about the future) (C) One — it's all just a metaphor about time (D) Four — metaphor, simile, idiom, and personification

76. An author writes about a dying garden: 'The roses hung their heads in shame, surrendering to the merciless sun that devoured every last drop of moisture.' Which device dominates this passage?

(A) Simile — the sun is compared to something that eats (B) Personification — the roses feel shame, the sun is merciless and devours (C) Metaphor — the garden is compared to a battlefield (D) Hyperbole — the dryness is exaggerated

Write the answer

77. Why might a writer choose to use an allusion to Icarus rather than directly writing 'he was too ambitious and failed'?

Answer: _____

78. Match each passage to its primary figurative device: (1) 'The classroom was a zoo today' (2) 'She ran faster than the speed of light' (3) 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'

Answer: _____

79. How can the same figurative device change meaning based on cultural context? Give an example with idioms.

Answer: _____

80. A speech begins: 'Like a mighty river carving through stone, like the slow turning of seasons, justice — that cruel, beautiful force — will not be denied.' Identify every figurative device.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Which literary device would be LEAST appropriate for a scientific research paper? →
2. In a novel, a character named Freedom lives in a prison, and a character named Joy works at a funeral home. What device is the author using with these character names? →
3. Rank these figurative devices from most literal to most abstract: simile, allegory, metaphor, personification. →
4. A proverb says 'The pen is mightier than the sword.' Is this a metaphor, a hyperbole, or both? →
5. How does understanding figurative language help with reading comprehension beyond English class? →

(A) Hyperbole — scientific writing requires precision, and deliberate exaggeration undermines credibility

(B) Simile (most literal — explicitly signals comparison) → Personification → Metaphor → Allegory (most abstract — entire narrative is symbolic)

(C) Situational irony — the characters' names are the opposite of their circumstances

(D) Figurative language appears everywhere — news headlines use metaphors, politicians use allusions, advertisers use hyperbole, and scientists use analogies

(E) Both — it's a metaphor (pen = writing/ideas, sword = military force) AND hyperbole (exaggerating that writing is always more powerful)

9. Figurative Language & Literary Devices

Circle the correct answer

81. What is symbolism in literature?

(A) Describing the setting of a story (B) Writing dialogue between characters (C) Using an object, person, or event to represent a deeper meaning (D) Using similes to compare two things

82. What type of figurative language appeals to the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch)?

(A) Imagery (B) Onomatopoeia (C) Alliteration (D) Hyperbole

83. In many stories, a journey or road symbolizes which of the following?

(A) The speed of the plot (B) A character's height (C) The weather changing (D) Life's path and personal growth

84. What color is most commonly used as a symbol for purity or innocence?

(A) Black (B) White (C) Green (D) Red

85. Which type of imagery appeals to the sense of hearing?

(A) Auditory imagery (B) Tactile imagery (C) Olfactory imagery (D) Visual imagery

86. What is the term for a symbol that is widely recognized across many cultures, such as water representing life?

(A) Personal symbol (B) Private symbol (C) Universal symbol (D) Contextual symbol

Write the answer

87. In the sentence 'The classroom was a furnace, heat shimmering off every desk,' what sense does the imagery primarily appeal to?

Answer: _____

88. Why might an author use a broken mirror as a symbol in a story?

Answer: _____

89. How does imagery differ from a simple physical description?

Answer: _____

90. In 'The Great Gatsby,' a green light across the bay symbolizes Gatsby's hopes and dreams. Why is green an effective color choice?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What does it mean when an author layers multiple types of imagery in a single passage? →

2. Which of the following best uses visual imagery to describe a sunset? →

3. Write a sentence using tactile imagery to describe walking on a beach. →

4. If you wanted to use a storm as a symbol for a character's inner turmoil, which description best achieves this? →

5. Which sentence uses olfactory imagery (smell) most effectively? →

(A) The sky bled orange and violet as the sun melted into the horizon like molten gold

(B) Thunder cracked like her patience — sudden and violent — while rain lashed the windows the way doubts battered her resolve

(C) The bakery exhaled warmth and the yeasty sweetness of rising bread that wrapped around her like a grandmother's hug

(D) They are creating a rich, immersive experience by engaging several senses at once

(E) The warm sand shifted beneath her feet like powdered sugar while cool waves lapped at her ankles

10. Figurative Language & Literary Devices

Circle the correct answer

91. What is 'tone' in literature?

(A) The author's attitude toward the subject or audience (B) The loudness of dialogue (C) The number of characters in a story (D) The speed at which events happen

92. What is 'mood' in a literary work?

(A) The emotional atmosphere or feeling that a text creates in the reader (B) The main character's personality, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) The genre of the book, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) The author's biography, and this principle applies across similar situations

93. What is the literary term for an author's unique style of expression, including their characteristic patterns of word choice and sentence structure?

(A) Theme (B) Setting (C) Voice (D) Plot

94. Which of the following words best describes a somber tone?

(A) Cheerful (B) Whimsical (C) Grave (D) Sarcastic

95. What is the primary tool authors use to establish tone?

(A) Chapter titles (B) Word choice (diction) (C) Page length (D) Font size

96. What is the difference between denotation and connotation?

(A) Denotation is old; connotation is modern (B) Denotation is a word's dictionary definition; connotation is its emotional association (C) Denotation is the spelling; connotation is the pronunciation (D) Denotation is formal; connotation is informal

Write the answer

97. How does the sentence 'The children shrieked with delight as confetti rained from the sky' create a joyful mood?

Answer: _____

98. Why might an author use short, clipped sentences to convey tension?

Answer: _____

99. What is the relationship between tone and mood?

Answer: _____

100. How do connotations of words like 'slender,' 'thin,' and 'scrawny' differ even though they all describe someone who is not overweight?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. In the passage 'Whatever,' she muttered, dragging her feet across the carpet, what tone is conveyed? →

2. Rewrite the sentence 'The dog sat by the door' to create an ominous mood. →

3. Which revision best shifts this sentence from a neutral tone to a nostalgic tone?

Original: 'The old playground had swings and a slide.' →

4. Write a single sentence that establishes a peaceful, serene mood. →

5. How would you change the tone of a birthday party scene from joyful to sinister without changing any of the events? →

(A) Apathetic or indifferent

(B) By replacing positive word choices with unsettling ones — e.g., 'The candles flickered like trapped flames while shadows gathered in the corners as the guests watched with unblinking eyes'

(C) The swings still hung there, creaking softly like echoes of laughter long faded, and the slide gleamed dull in the afternoon light, waiting for children who had grown up and moved away

(D) The dog crouched motionless by the door, its eyes fixed on something only it could see in the gathering darkness

(E) The lake mirrored the sky in perfect stillness, and the only sound was the distant whisper of wind through pine needles

11. Figurative Language & Literary Devices

Circle the correct answer

101. What is a stanza in poetry?

(A) A poem with exactly ten lines, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (B) The title of a poem, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) A group of lines forming a unit within a poem, similar to a paragraph in prose (D) A type of rhyme scheme, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

102. What is alliteration?

(A) The repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of nearby words (B) A type of rhyme at the end of lines (C) Using words that sound like what they mean (D) The repetition of vowel sounds

103. What is onomatopoeia?

(A) A word that imitates the natural sound it describes (B) A word that rhymes with itself (C) A word with opposite meaning (D) A word borrowed from another language

104. What is the term for the rhythm or 'beat' created by a pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in poetry?

(A) Meter (B) Rhyme (C) Stanza (D) Couplet

105. What is enjambment in poetry?

(A) When a sentence or phrase continues from one line to the next without a pause or punctuation at the line break (B) When two lines rhyme, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) When a poem has no stanzas, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) When every line ends with a period, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

106. What is assonance?

(A) The use of contradictory terms together (B) Words that rhyme at the end of lines (C) The repetition of vowel sounds within nearby words (D) The repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words

Write the answer

107. In the line 'The fog comes on little cat feet,' why is this metaphor more effective than simply saying 'the fog arrived quietly'?

Answer: _____

108. How does repetition function differently in poetry than in prose?

Answer: _____

109. Why do poets use line breaks strategically, even in the middle of sentences?

Answer: _____

110. What effect does the sound device consonance have in the line 'The lumps of luck leapt from the lake'?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How does a poet's use of a simile differ from their use of a metaphor in terms of impact on the reader? →
2. Which of the following lines uses personification most effectively? →
3. Add alliteration to improve this flat line: 'The snake moved across the sand.' →
4. Write a couplet (two rhyming lines) that uses at least one example of personification. →
5. Identify the sound devices in this line: 'The buzzing bees bumbled between blooming bluebells.' →

(A) The wind whispered secrets through the sleeping town, tucking shadows around doorsteps like blankets

(B) Similes create an explicit comparison that readers consciously evaluate, while metaphors create identity that readers feel instinctively

(C) The sidewinder slithered silently across the sunbaked sand

(D) Alliteration (repeated 'b' sounds) and onomatopoeia ('buzzing')

(E) The moon leaned down and kissed the sea, / and whispered waves rolled back in glee

12. Figurative Language & Literary Devices

Circle the correct answer

111. What is 'author's craft'?

(A) The author's handwriting style, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (B) The deliberate choices an author makes about language, structure, and figurative language to achieve a specific effect (C) The author's publishing company, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) The paper an author writes on, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

112. What is rhetoric?

(A) A type of poetry from Greece (B) The art of using language effectively and persuasively (C) The study of ancient history (D) The science of grammar rules

113. What is the term for figurative language used in everyday conversation, such as 'break a leg' or 'it's raining cats and dogs'?

(A) Jargon (B) Slang (C) Dialect (D) Idiom

114. In persuasive writing, what are the three classical rhetorical appeals identified by Aristotle?

- (A) Simile, metaphor, and personification (B) Introduction, body, and conclusion
(C) Character, setting, and plot (D) Ethos (credibility), pathos (emotion), and logos (logic)

115. What genre of writing most frequently uses figurative language for persuasive purposes?

- (A) Advertising and speeches (B) Mathematical proofs (C) Instruction manuals (D) Scientific lab reports

116. What is the term for when figurative language is used to soften harsh or unpleasant realities, such as saying 'passed away' instead of 'died'?

- (A) Oxymoron (B) Euphemism (C) Understatement (D) Hyperbole

Write the answer

117. Why does Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech use the metaphor of a 'bad check' (a check marked 'insufficient funds') to describe racial injustice?

Answer: _____

118. How does figurative language function differently in fiction versus nonfiction?

Answer: _____

119. Why might a science writer describe DNA as a 'blueprint' or a 'recipe'?

Answer: _____

120. How does the use of euphemism in news reporting affect how audiences perceive events?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What is the difference between a dead metaphor and a living metaphor? →

2. An advertisement says: 'Taste the rainbow.' Identify the figurative language and explain why it's effective for selling candy. →

3. Rewrite this plain news sentence using figurative language to make it more engaging: 'The economy grew slowly last quarter.' →

4. Write a persuasive sentence using a metaphor to argue that libraries are important. →

5. Identify the rhetorical appeal (ethos, pathos, or logos) that figurative language most commonly supports, and give an example. →

(A) The economy inched forward last quarter, a patient tortoise in a race it once sprinted

(B) It uses synesthesia (mixing senses — tasting a visual phenomenon) to connect the candy's colors to a magical, multi-sensory experience that feels larger than just eating sweets

(C) A library is the great equalizer — a door that opens the same width for every person, regardless of what they carry in their pockets

(D) Pathos — figurative language most often creates emotional connection, such as 'Our veterans are the backbone of this nation'

(E) A dead metaphor has been used so often that its figurative origin is forgotten ('table leg,' 'foot of the mountain'), while a living metaphor still creates a fresh image

13. Personification

Circle the correct answer

121. Compare these two similes: 'Her voice was like music' and 'Her voice was like a fire alarm.' What different feelings do they create?

(A) The first suggests a pleasant voice; the second suggests a loud, unpleasant voice. (B) They both describe the same kind of voice. (C) The first is a simile; the second is a metaphor. (D) The first is about singing; the second is about speaking.

122. A book begins: 'School was a prison, and summer was the great escape.' How many metaphors are in this sentence?

(A) Two — school is compared to a prison, and summer is compared to an escape. (B) One — only the prison comparison. (C) Zero — this sentence uses similes. (D) Three — school, prison, and summer are all metaphors.

123. How is personification different from a metaphor?

(A) Personification uses 'like' and metaphors don't. (B) They are exactly the same thing with different names. (C) Personification specifically gives human traits to non-human things; metaphors compare any two unlike things. (D) Personification is for poetry and metaphors are for stories.

124. Why might the idiom 'pulling someone's leg' (meaning to joke with them) be confusing when used in a text message without context?

(A) Because text messages don't support idioms. (B) Because you can't pull someone's leg through a phone. (C) Because idioms only work in formal writing. (D) Without tone of voice or context clues, the reader might take it literally or not recognize it as an idiom.

125. What does the proverb 'Actions speak louder than words' mean, and when would you use it?

(A) People should shout instead of whispering, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) Physical activity is more important than reading, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) You should always act before speaking, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (D) What people DO is more important than what they SAY — used when someone makes promises but doesn't follow through.

126. Write a sentence that combines BOTH hyperbole and allusion. Which example achieves this?

(A) I've asked you to clean your room a billion times — at this point, it would take a Herculean effort just to find the floor. (B) Cleaning your room is a Herculean task, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) I've asked you a billion times to clean your room, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (D) Your room is really messy and you should clean it, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

Write the answer

127. What is an allusion?

Answer: _____

128. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. often used analogies in speeches. Why are analogies especially powerful in persuasive speaking?

Answer: _____

129. Why might an author choose to write an allegory instead of directly stating their message?

Answer: _____

130. A story follows a professional thief who gets robbed on vacation. The author then writes: 'He finally understood what his victims felt.' What layers of irony are present?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Shakespeare's Romeo says about the fighting Montagues and Capulets: 'Here's much to do with hate, but more with love.' What device is used in this line? →

2. Which of these is a paradox? →

3. What is the primary purpose of satire? →

4. Rank these figurative devices from most literal to most abstract: simile, allegory, metaphor, personification. →

5. What is the key difference between a simile and a metaphor? →

(A) A simile uses 'like' or 'as' to compare, while a metaphor states one thing IS another

(B) Oxymoron — pairing hate and love as intertwined forces

(C) This statement is false

(D) To use humor and exaggeration to criticize and inspire change in society

(E) Simile (most literal — explicitly signals comparison) → Personification → Metaphor → Allegory (most abstract — entire narrative is symbolic)

14. Personification

Circle the correct answer

131. Read this passage: 'The old car coughed and sputtered. Its engine roared like an angry bear waking from hibernation.' Which part is a simile?

(A) Its engine roared. (B) The old car coughed and sputtered. (C) The entire passage is one big simile. (D) Its engine roared like an angry bear waking from hibernation.

132. The phrase 'drowning in homework' is a metaphor used in everyday speech. Why might some people not even realize it's a metaphor?

(A) Because only English teachers know what metaphors are. (B) Because it's not actually a metaphor — it's literal. (C) Because drowning and homework sound similar. (D) It's so commonly used that people forget it's not literally true — they process it as a regular expression.

133. In mythology, ancient Greeks personified the sea as Poseidon (an angry, powerful god). How does personifying natural forces as gods affect storytelling?

(A) It's only useful for ancient stories, not modern writing. (B) It proves that the Greeks believed the sea was actually a person. (C) It makes mythology less interesting because gods are predictable. (D) It gives natural events human motivations, making them explainable and story-worthy.

134. An author writes a character who takes every idiom literally: when told to 'break a leg,' the character tries to break their leg. What literary effect does this create?

(A) Confusion — readers won't understand what's happening. (B) Humor from the gap between literal and figurative meaning, while also highlighting how strange idioms are. (C) Horror — the character is injuring themselves. (D) Suspense — the reader wonders if the character will get hurt.

135. Compare the proverbs 'The early bird catches the worm' and 'Good things come to those who wait.' Do they contradict each other?

(A) Yes, they give opposite advice — one says act fast, the other says be patient — because different situations call for different wisdom. (B) No, because one is about birds and the other isn't. (C) Yes, which proves proverbs are useless, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) No, they both say the same thing in different words, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

136. What is hyperbole?

(A) An extreme exaggeration used for emphasis or humor, not meant to be taken literally. (B) A comparison between two unlike things. (C) A word that imitates a sound. (D) A reference to a famous story or person.

Write the answer

137. Design an allusion that a classroom of students your age would immediately understand. Which is most effective?

Answer: _____

138. What is an analogy?

Answer: _____

139. The Wizard of Oz has been interpreted as an allegory for late 1800s American politics: Dorothy = the American people, the Scarecrow = farmers, the Tin Man = industrial workers, the Cowardly Lion = a political leader. What does this interpretation tell us about allegory?

Answer: _____

140. A fire station burns down. What type of irony is this?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Evaluate which oxymoron best captures the feeling of graduating from middle school: 'bittersweet ending,' 'painfully beautiful,' or 'clearly confused.' →

2. How does a paradox differ from an oxymoron? →

3. A political cartoon shows a wealthy person in a mansion saying, 'Nobody understands the struggles of the common people like I do.' What device is the cartoonist using? →

4. Which literary device would be LEAST appropriate for a scientific research paper? →

5. Which simile would best describe a very quiet library? →

- (A) A paradox is a full statement that seems contradictory but may reveal truth, while an oxymoron is a two-word phrase
- (B) Satire using verbal irony
- (C) The library was as silent as a tomb.
- (D) 'Bittersweet ending' — it captures both the sadness of leaving and the excitement of moving on
- (E) Hyperbole — scientific writing requires precision, and deliberate exaggeration undermines credibility
-

15. Personification

Circle the correct answer

141. Compare these two metaphors for anger: 'Anger is a fire' and 'Anger is a storm.' How do they suggest different experiences of anger?

- (A) Fire suggests anger that burns and destroys; a storm suggests anger that is loud, powerful, but eventually passes. (B) Fire anger is small; storm anger is big, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) Fire anger is hot; storm anger is cold, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) They mean the exact same thing, and this principle applies across similar situations

142. How does the personification change between these two descriptions of the ocean? A: 'The ocean gently rocked the boat.' B: 'The ocean grabbed the boat and shook it violently.'

- (A) There is no personification in either sentence. (B) A is personification but B is not. (C) A personifies the ocean as gentle and nurturing; B personifies it as aggressive and dangerous. (D) B is more accurate because oceans are always dangerous.

143. Why do social media posts often use hyperbole ('literally dying,' 'the best thing ever,' 'I can't even')?

- (A) Because hyperbole is the only figurative language used online. (B) Social media rewards attention-grabbing language, and hyperbole competes for attention in crowded feeds. (C) Because social media users are less educated than other writers. (D) Because algorithms require exaggerated language.

144. When a book's title is 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' the mockingbird is an allusion within the story itself. What does it represent?

- (A) The mockingbird represents the legal system. (B) The mockingbird represents the state bird of Alabama. (C) Innocence — mockingbirds only make music and harm no one, so killing one represents destroying innocence. (D) The mockingbird represents a specific character who is a bird-watcher.

145. Every analogy eventually breaks down — the comparison stops being accurate at some point. Where does the analogy 'The atom is like a tiny solar system' break down?

(A) It breaks down because atoms are much smaller than solar systems. (B) It breaks down because solar systems don't have electrons. (C) Electrons don't orbit in fixed paths like planets; they exist in probability clouds, and there's no equivalent to sunlight or gravity. (D) It doesn't break down — atoms are exactly like solar systems.

146. A news article is titled 'Tech Company That Promises Privacy Caught Selling User Data.' Identify the type of irony and explain its effect on the reader.

(A) This is not irony — it's just a factual report (B) Dramatic irony — readers know the company is dishonest before reading (C) Verbal irony — the headline is being sarcastic about privacy (D) Situational irony — the company's actions are the opposite of its promises, making readers distrust corporate claims

Write the answer

147. What is an oxymoron?

Answer: _____

148. Create a paradox that reveals something true about learning.

Answer: _____

149. In Jonathan Swift's 'A Modest Proposal,' Swift suggests eating children to solve poverty. What literary device is Swift using?

Answer: _____

150. Match each passage to its primary figurative device: (1) 'The classroom was a zoo today' (2) 'She ran faster than the speed of light' (3) 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What does the simile 'He ran like the wind' tell you about how the person ran? →

2. How is a metaphor different from a simile? →

3. When should a writer choose NOT to use personification? →

4. What is an idiom? →

5. A movie is described as 'a modern-day Odyssey.' What does this allusion to Homer's epic poem tell you about the movie? →

(A) He ran extremely fast

(B) A common expression whose meaning is different from the literal meaning of its words.

(C) The movie involves a long, difficult journey with many obstacles before the hero

returns home.

(D) A metaphor says something IS another thing; a simile says something is LIKE another thing.

(E) In scientific or technical writing where precision and literal accuracy matter.

16. Personification

Circle the correct answer

151. Why might an author choose a simile instead of saying 'The dog was very fast'?

(A) Similes are required by grammar rules. (B) Similes make writing sound more scientific. (C) A simile creates a more vivid picture in the reader's mind. (D) Similes make sentences shorter and simpler.

152. Create a metaphor for homework. Which of these is the most creative and original?

(A) Homework is a mountain, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) Homework is hard work, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) Homework is an uninvited guest that follows you home from school every day. (D) Homework is bad, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

153. In Emily Dickinson's poem, death is personified as a gentleman caller: 'Because I could not stop for Death — He kindly stopped for me.' Why might Dickinson personify death this way?

(A) Because poems are required to use personification. (B) To make death seem less frightening — portraying it as polite and gentle rather than scary. (C) To make the poem longer and more complex. (D) Because Death was actually a person she knew.

154. What is the difference between an idiom and a proverb?

(A) They are exactly the same thing, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) An idiom is a phrase with a non-literal meaning; a proverb is a short saying that teaches a lesson or gives advice. (C) Idioms are modern; proverbs are ancient, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) Idioms are used in speech; proverbs are only in writing, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

155. The proverb 'Don't judge a book by its cover' teaches what lesson?

(A) You should never judge anything. (B) Don't form opinions about people or things based only on their outward appearance. (C) Always read the back cover of books before buying them. (D) Book covers are unreliable indicators of book quality.

156. Which hyperbole best expresses extreme cold?

(A) It was as cold as the Arctic, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) It was so cold my words froze in mid-air and I had to thaw them out to hear what I said. (C) It was really, really cold outside, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (D) It was below freezing temperature, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

Write the answer

157. A debate team argues: 'Banning phones in school is like banning pencils — both are tools that can be misused, but that doesn't mean we should eliminate them.' Is this a strong or weak analogy?

Answer: _____

158. What is an allegory?

Answer: _____

159. Why do writers sometimes choose an oxymoron like 'deafening silence' over simply writing 'complete silence'?

Answer: _____

160. Oscar Wilde wrote: 'I can resist everything except temptation.' Why is this a paradox?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What is the difference between horatian satire and juvenalian satire? →
2. How does understanding figurative language help with reading comprehension beyond English class? →
3. Why do authors sometimes use 'like' and sometimes use 'as...as' in their similes? →
4. Which of these everyday expressions is actually a metaphor? →
5. Use context clues to determine the meaning of the idiom in this sentence: 'After studying all weekend, the test was a piece of cake.' →

(A) She has a heart of gold.

(B) The test was very easy.

(C) Both create similes, but 'as...as' often emphasizes a specific quality while 'like' suggests a broader comparison.

(D) Figurative language appears everywhere — news headlines use metaphors, politicians use allusions, advertisers use hyperbole, and scientists use analogies

(E) Horatian satire is gentle and humorous, aiming to correct through laughter; Juvenalian satire is harsh and angry, aiming to provoke outrage

Riddle & Joke Break

Guess the answer, then check the key!

- 161. Why did the metaphor go to the doctor?
 - 162. What did the simile say to the metaphor?
 - 163. Why was the idiom always confused?
 - 164. What's an onomatopoeia's favorite greeting?
 - 165. Why did the alliteration feel fancy?
 - 166. What did the personification say to the chair?
-

Answer Key

- 1. C — Her smile was like sunshine on a cloudy day.
- 2. C — A comparison using 'like' or 'as'
- 3. B — The lake and glass
- 4. B — He ran extremely fast
- 5. D — The classroom was a zoo.
- 6. C — Touch
- 7. Two
- 8. The library was as silent as a tomb.
- 9. Yes, because it exaggerates the heat in a way readers understand.
- 10. a lion
Matching (Similes & Comparisons — Painting Pictures with Words): 1→A, 2→B, 3→D, 4→C, 5→E
- 11. A — Time is a thief that steals our moments.
- 12. D — A metaphor says something IS another thing; a simile says something is LIKE another thing.
- 13. C — Its ups and downs — life has good times and bad times.
- 14. A — People are like actors, each playing a role in life.

15. A — She has a heart of gold.
16. B — The person's legs felt weak and wobbly from exhaustion.
17. The hallway was a river of students flowing toward the cafeteria.
18. The snow was a white blanket covering the ground.
19. Two — school is compared to a prison, and summer is compared to an escape.
20. Reading lets you see and experience places and ideas beyond your own life.
Matching (Metaphors — Seeing One Thing as Another): 1→D, 2→B, 3→E, 4→C, 5→A
21. B — Giving human qualities, actions, or emotions to non-human things.
22. D — The old house groaned in the wind.
23. B — The ability to smile, suggesting warmth and approval.
24. B — A tense, suspenseful, or spooky mood.
25. C — Personification specifically gives human traits to non-human things; metaphors compare any two unlike things.
26. A — The storm is personified as an angry attacker that retreats — fury, angry, and retreating are human qualities.
27. My computer has decided to throw a tantrum today.
28. The alarm clock screamed at me to wake up at 6 AM.
29. To make death seem less frightening — portraying it as polite and gentle rather than scary.
30. It adds movement, joy, and a sense that the garden is alive and celebratory.
Matching (Personification — When Objects Come Alive): 1→B, 2→E, 3→A, 4→D, 5→C
31. B — A common expression whose meaning is different from the literal meaning of its words.
32. D — To describe something exactly right.
33. D — Because the literal meaning (releasing a cat from a bag) has nothing to do with the actual meaning (revealing a secret).
34. A — An idiom is a phrase with a non-literal meaning; a proverb is a short saying that teaches a lesson or gives advice.
35. B — Extremely happy or thrilled.

36. A — To take on a task that's too big or difficult for you.
37. The test was very easy.
38. She's a night owl.
39. Don't form opinions about people or things based only on their outward appearance.
40. I'll keep it under my hat.
Matching (Idioms & Proverbs — Cracking the Code of Common Expressions): 1→C, 2→D, 3→B, 4→A, 5→E
41. A — An extreme exaggeration used for emphasis or humor, not meant to be taken literally.
42. C — My backpack weighs a ton.
43. D — A brief reference to a well-known person, place, event, or work of art that adds layers of meaning.
44. D — The obvious impossibility creates a surprise that makes people laugh.
45. A — The Greek myth of Achilles, whose only vulnerable spot was his heel.
46. D — Hyperbole is obviously exaggerated and not intended to deceive; lying is meant to make someone believe something false.
47. It alludes to Hercules from Greek mythology, who completed twelve seemingly impossible labors.
48. It was so cold my words froze in mid-air and I had to thaw them out to hear what I said.
49. Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, one of the most famous speeches in American history.
50. In comedy, it creates absurd humor; in advertising, it makes products seem extraordinarily appealing.
Matching (Hyperbole & Allusion — Exaggeration Meets Reference): 1→E, 2→B, 3→A, 4→C, 5→D
51. B — A comparison between two things that explains an unfamiliar idea by relating it to a familiar one.
52. C — A story where characters, events, and settings represent abstract ideas or real-world issues beneath the surface plot.
53. A — An analogy develops the comparison in detail to explain something, while a

simile is a brief comparison for imagery.

54. D — It maps a scientific concept (selective permeability) onto a familiar experience (security at a building) that students understand.
55. B — People who accept surface appearances as truth without seeking deeper understanding or education.
56. D — bread; fillings
57. Consistent effort and perseverance are more valuable than natural talent alone.
58. It explains both the benefits (vast information) and risks (unreliability, disorder) through a familiar comparison.
59. Electrons don't orbit in fixed paths like planets; they exist in probability clouds, and there's no equivalent to sunlight or gravity.
60. Power corrupts: revolutionaries who fight against oppression can become oppressors themselves.
Matching (Analogies & Allegory — Hidden Meanings and Parallel Worlds): 1→A, 2→B, 3→C, 4→D, 5→E
61. A — When someone says the opposite of what they actually mean
62. C — Situational irony
63. C — Dramatic irony
64. C — A figure of speech combining two contradictory terms
65. D — A paradox is a full statement that seems contradictory but may reveal truth, while an oxymoron is a two-word phrase
66. B — Satire
67. In 'The Gift of the Magi,' a wife sells her hair to buy a watch chain, while her husband sells his watch to buy hair combs
68. Both the speaker and listener know the statement is the opposite of the truth — it's not meant to deceive
69. This statement is false
70. Satire using verbal irony
Matching (Irony, Satire & Paradox — When Words Twist and Turn): 1→D, 2→A, 3→E, 4→B, 5→C
71. D — Personification (wind whispered, branches reaching), simile (like gnarled fingers, as dark as spilled ink)

72. D — A simile uses 'like' or 'as' to compare, while a metaphor states one thing IS another
73. B — Hyperbole (extreme exaggeration) and verbal irony (humorous understatement of the real issue — it's just bad pizza)
74. A — Analogy — comparing electricity to water flowing through pipes gives a concrete, familiar model
75. B — Three — metaphor (time is money), simile (spending it like...), and idiom (no tomorrow means not worrying about the future)
76. B — Personification — the roses feel shame, the sun is merciless and devours
77. The allusion compresses an entire story into one reference, carrying emotional weight and mythological grandeur that a plain statement lacks
78. (1) Metaphor, (2) Hyperbole, (3) Paradox with oxymoronic structure
79. Idioms are culture-specific — 'it's raining cats and dogs' means heavy rain in English but would be meaningless or confusing in another language
80. Two similes (like a river, like seasons), personification (justice will not be denied), and oxymoron (cruel, beautiful)
Matching (Capstone: Mastering Figurative Language — The Literary Detective):
1→A, 2→C, 3→B, 4→E, 5→D
81. C — Using an object, person, or event to represent a deeper meaning
82. A — Imagery
83. D — Life's path and personal growth
84. B — White
85. A — Auditory imagery
86. C — Universal symbol
87. Touch (feeling heat)
88. To represent shattered identity or fractured self-image
89. Imagery uses figurative or sensory language to create an emotional experience
90. Green is associated with growth, hope, and longing for the future
Matching (Figurative Language & Literary Devices): 1→D, 2→A, 3→E, 4→B, 5→C
91. A — The author's attitude toward the subject or audience

92. A — The emotional atmosphere or feeling that a text creates in the reader
93. C — Voice
94. C — Grave
95. B — Word choice (diction)
96. B — Denotation is a word's dictionary definition; connotation is its emotional association
97. Through energetic word choices ('shrieked,' 'delight,' 'rained') and a vivid celebratory image
98. Short sentences create urgency and quicken the pace, mimicking a racing heartbeat or rapid breathing
99. Tone is the author's attitude (cause), and mood is the emotional atmosphere created in the reader (effect)
100. They carry different emotional judgments: 'slender' is positive and elegant, 'thin' is neutral, and 'scrawny' is negative and unflattering
Matching (Figurative Language & Literary Devices): 1→A, 2→D, 3→C, 4→E, 5→B
101. C — A group of lines forming a unit within a poem, similar to a paragraph in prose
102. A — The repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of nearby words
103. A — A word that imitates the natural sound it describes
104. A — Meter
105. A — When a sentence or phrase continues from one line to the next without a pause or punctuation at the line break
106. C — The repetition of vowel sounds within nearby words
107. The cat metaphor creates a vivid image of silent, delicate movement and gives the fog an almost living presence
108. In poetry, repetition creates rhythm, musical effect, and emphasis that build emotional intensity across lines and stanzas
109. Line breaks control pacing, create suspense, emphasize specific words, and add layers of meaning by how phrases are divided
110. The repeated 'l' and 'k' sounds create a bouncing, energetic rhythm that mirrors the leaping action described

Matching (Figurative Language & Literary Devices): 1→B, 2→A, 3→C, 4→E, 5→D

- 111. B — The deliberate choices an author makes about language, structure, and figurative language to achieve a specific effect
 - 112. B — The art of using language effectively and persuasively
 - 113. D — Idiom
 - 114. D — Ethos (credibility), pathos (emotion), and logos (logic)
 - 115. A — Advertising and speeches
 - 116. B — Euphemism
 - 117. The financial metaphor makes an abstract injustice concrete and relatable by connecting civil rights to a promise (the Constitution) that America has failed to honor
 - 118. In fiction, figurative language builds imagined worlds and emotional depth; in nonfiction, it clarifies complex ideas and makes arguments more compelling
 - 119. These metaphors translate complex biological concepts into familiar everyday terms that non-expert readers can immediately grasp
 - 120. Euphemisms can minimize the emotional impact of events, distancing audiences from harsh realities and potentially reducing urgency or empathy
- Matching (Figurative Language & Literary Devices): 1→E, 2→B, 3→A, 4→C, 5→D
- 121. A — The first suggests a pleasant voice; the second suggests a loud, unpleasant voice.
 - 122. A — Two — school is compared to a prison, and summer is compared to an escape.
 - 123. C — Personification specifically gives human traits to non-human things; metaphors compare any two unlike things.
 - 124. D — Without tone of voice or context clues, the reader might take it literally or not recognize it as an idiom.
 - 125. D — What people DO is more important than what they SAY — used when someone makes promises but doesn't follow through.
 - 126. A — I've asked you to clean your room a billion times — at this point, it would take a Herculean effort just to find the floor.
 - 127. A brief reference to a well-known person, place, event, or work of art that adds layers of meaning.

128. They make abstract justice concepts concrete and help audiences FEEL the unfairness rather than just understand it intellectually.
129. Allegory can avoid censorship, engage readers through story, and allow multiple interpretations of complex ideas.
130. Situational irony (thief getting robbed) combined with dramatic irony (readers see the justice the character missed)
Matching (Personification): 1→B, 2→C, 3→D, 4→E, 5→A
131. D — Its engine roared like an angry bear waking from hibernation.
132. D — It's so commonly used that people forget it's not literally true — they process it as a regular expression.
133. D — It gives natural events human motivations, making them explainable and story-worthy.
134. B — Humor from the gap between literal and figurative meaning, while also highlighting how strange idioms are.
135. A — Yes, they give opposite advice — one says act fast, the other says be patient — because different situations call for different wisdom.
136. A — An extreme exaggeration used for emphasis or humor, not meant to be taken literally.
137. 'Finishing this assignment felt like surviving the Hunger Games' — referencing a widely-known book/movie series.
138. A comparison between two things that explains an unfamiliar idea by relating it to a familiar one.
139. Allegories can be interpreted differently by different audiences — the author may or may not have intended the political reading.
140. Situational irony
Matching (Personification): 1→D, 2→A, 3→B, 4→E, 5→C
141. A — Fire suggests anger that burns and destroys; a storm suggests anger that is loud, powerful, but eventually passes.
142. C — A personifies the ocean as gentle and nurturing; B personifies it as aggressive and dangerous.
143. B — Social media rewards attention-grabbing language, and hyperbole competes for attention in crowded feeds.
144. C — Innocence — mockingbirds only make music and harm no one, so killing one

represents destroying innocence.

145. C — Electrons don't orbit in fixed paths like planets; they exist in probability clouds, and there's no equivalent to sunlight or gravity.
146. D — Situational irony — the company's actions are the opposite of its promises, making readers distrust corporate claims
147. A figure of speech combining two contradictory terms
148. 'The more you learn, the more you realize how much you don't know' — knowledge expands awareness of ignorance
149. Satire
150. (1) Metaphor, (2) Hyperbole, (3) Paradox with oxymoronic structure
Matching (Personification): 1→A, 2→D, 3→E, 4→B, 5→C
151. C — A simile creates a more vivid picture in the reader's mind.
152. C — Homework is an uninvited guest that follows you home from school every day.
153. B — To make death seem less frightening — portraying it as polite and gentle rather than scary.
154. B — An idiom is a phrase with a non-literal meaning; a proverb is a short saying that teaches a lesson or gives advice.
155. B — Don't form opinions about people or things based only on their outward appearance.
156. B — It was so cold my words froze in mid-air and I had to thaw them out to hear what I said.
157. Weak — phones have far more potential for distraction, social media, and non-academic use than pencils, making them fundamentally different.
158. A story where characters, events, and settings represent abstract ideas or real-world issues beneath the surface plot.
159. The contradiction creates emotional intensity — 'deafening silence' conveys that the silence is so powerful it feels overwhelming, which 'complete silence' can't capture
160. Claiming to resist everything while admitting you can't resist temptation contradicts itself, revealing human weakness
Matching (Personification): 1→E, 2→D, 3→C, 4→A, 5→B

- 161. It was feeling a bit too figurative!
- 162. "We're like twins -- but I always say 'like' or 'as'!"
- 163. Because it never meant what it said!
- 164. "BANG! CRASH! Oh, hi there!"
- 165. Because Peter Piper picked a perfect pun!
- 166. "Take a seat -- oh wait, you already have legs!"

Spark & Anvil is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Apps + books are free forever.