

Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot

Taking a Look at Figurative Language

Name: _____

Date: _____

Figurative language helps make writing worth reading! Simply put, it is writing that contains images. The writer describes something through the use of unusual comparisons, for effect, interest, and to make things clearer. The result of using this technique is the creation of interesting images.

For more advanced readers and writers, figurative language is not intended to be interpreted in a literal sense. It appeals to your imagination. It always makes use of a comparison between different things. Figurative language compares two things that are different in enough ways so that their similarities, when pointed out, are interesting, unique and/or surprising.

For example:

“In the dark, the forest seems magical, full of mosses, ferns and moonlight, alive with sounds like bells and flutes, pops and buzzes.”

alive with sounds is personification – gives the qualities of a person to an animal, an object, or an idea

pops and buzzes are examples of onomatopoeia - use of words to imitate sounds

“Its 695 square miles of mountains are draped in forest, and from the plane we see no roads at all.”

Miles of mountains is alliteration - repeated consonant sounds occurring at the beginning of words or within words to create melody, establish mood, call attention to important words, and point out similarities and contrasts

Mountains are draped in forest is metaphorical –an implied comparison between two relatively unlike things using a form of be.

Other commonly used forms of figurative language include:

Similes: a comparison using like or as such as “*Kakapos don’t talk, but they can growl like a dog...*”

Idioms: language specific expressions such as “*...all our eggs...are in one basket.*”

Hyperbole: an exaggerated statement used to heighten effect such as “*...in a race against time.*”

Assonance: repeated vowel sounds in words such as “*fresh out of bed*” (repeated /ě/).

Imagery - language that appeals to the senses

“*The forests were tall and ancient. Huge pillar-like kauri trees lived to 7,500 years old. Dinosaur-era tree ferns and giant palms with fronds ten feet long towered above an understory of woodland grasses, soft mosses, lacey ferns and giant orchids.*”

Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot Taking a Look at Figurative Language

Now it's your turn....

Find examples of figurative language in Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot. Write down the quotation (example) from the book, identify the type of figurative language, and then explain its meaning.

Example:

Form of Figurative Language:

Meaning:

Example:

Form of Figurative Language:

Meaning:

Example:

Form of Figurative Language:

Meaning: