Figurative Language

Similes and Metaphors

(used to compare two unlike things)

A simile makes the comparison using the words <u>like</u> or <u>as</u>. • She was **AS** pretty **AS** a flower. • Her hair was flowing **LIKE** a rainbow.	A metaphor uses the verb is, was, were etc. to make a direct comparison of two objects. • He **WAS** a mountain. • She **IS** a dandelion.

Idioms

(a phrase or saying that means something completely different than what is says.)

Idiom	Meaning
Don't let the cat out of the bag	Don't tell the secret
He has butterflies in his stomach	He is nervous
Under the weather	Feeling sick

Hyperbole

(An exaggeration that S-T-R-E-T-C-H-E-S the truth.)

That joke is so old, last time I heard it I was riding a dinosaur.

PIECE OF TRUTH + STRETCH - IT = HYPERBOLE

Personification

(Giving an object a human feeling or emotion)

- The sun glared down at me from the sky
- The wind howled in agony
- I could hear Hawaii calling my name.

Onomatopoeia

(A word that spells out the sound it makes)

- Crash! I knew I was in trouble as soon as I heard that sound.
- Boom! The thunder clapped loudly in the air.
- Bang! A shot rang out in the quiet night sky.

Figurative language is used to make writing more interesting and easier for your reader to visualize. Try to add some figurative language to your next writing piece and see how much pizazz and style it adds!