

Y5 Figurative Language

KS2 Y5 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Explain the effect of 'the traffic hums a tuneless song'

Step 1 · Name the device

Personification (and the onomatopoeia 'hums')

Step 2 · What picture does it create?

The traffic sounds like someone humming without a tune.

Step 3 · What is the effect on the reader?

We hear a constant, low background noise, the city is quietly singing to itself.

Answer: The personification makes the traffic seem like a person humming, so the reader can hear its steady, endless noise.

Check: Name it, picture it, explain the effect.

2. Now try one with the steps

Why 'watchful eyes' rather than 'bright lights'?

Step 1 · 'bright lights' tells us what they look like

Step 2 · 'watchful eyes' suggests they are looking at us

Step 3 · Effect

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is a simile?

2. What is a metaphor?

3. What is personification?

4. Name the device: 'The kettle whistled and the bacon sizzled.'

5. Name the device: 'Seven slippery snakes slid silently.'

6. Simile or metaphor? 'Her voice was'

7. Simile or metaphor? 'The classroom was a zoo.'

8. Name the device: 'I've told you a million times!'

9. Explain the effect of 'the wind screamed through the alley'.

10. Why might a writer put a one-word sentence in a paragraph, such as 'Silence.'?

11. Change this simile into a metaphor: 'The fog was like a grey blanket.'

12. Give one presentational device used in a non-fiction text, and say why it helps.

13. Write a sentence using personification to describe an old house.

14. Why is it not enough to say 'The writer uses a simile'?

4. Before you hand it in

'The writer uses a metaphor.' (and stops)

Explain the effect: what does it make you see, hear or feel, and why?

Calling every comparison a simile

'The lights are eyes' is a metaphor; 'like eyes' would be a simile.

'It makes it more interesting.'

Be precise: 'It makes the city seem alive and watchful, which feels eerie.'

Only looking at words, not structure or layout

Ask: why is this sentence short? Why is this part at the end? Why is this in bold?