

## Identifying Figurative Language

**Directions:** Read the lines of poetry. Figure out which technique is being used: idiom, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, or personification. It is possible more than one technique is being used. In the boxes, explain in your own words what is meant by the lines. **Try your best to interpret the meaning.** Slashes represent line breaks.

1. **Example** - There's a faucet in the basement / that had dripped one drop all year  
since he fixed it, we can't find it / without wearing scuba gear.

What technique is being used? Hyperbole

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning. The line is saying that someone made the sink worse while trying to fix it.

2. Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines / Diggin' in my own back yard.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

3. Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave / I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

4. The daisy hugging the earth / in August, ha!

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

5. Don't worry about the Alex / She's all bark and no bite.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

6. Endless wealth, / I thought, / held out its arms to me.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

7. A thousand Paradises / in an apple blossom.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

8. Cause I walk like I've got oil wells / Pumping in my living room.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

9. After getting my report card / I knew it was time to hit the books.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

10. Floors are flowers – take a few / Ferns grow here and daisies too.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

11. An old willow with hollow branches / slowly swayed his few high tendrils / and sang:

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

12. I should have done homework or studied instead / But I got up on the wrong side of the bed.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

13. There's a guy in a tux and he stands in the corner, / Feedin' the jukebox his dimes.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

14. I pushed him from my arms / his stare brought with a terror through / a million billion trillion stars.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

15. a flower / a weakest flower / shall be our trust

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

16. I am Super Samson Simpson / I'm superlatively strong / I like to carry elephants / I do it all day long.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

17. As men walked up and down the street. Wino men, old men. / Young men sharp as mustard.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

18. Love is something else, / or so I thought it, / a garden which expands,

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

19. It is the mind / the mind / that must be cured / short of death's intervention,

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

20. I guess that my friends were just pulling my leg.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

21. One day they hold you in the / Palms of their hands, gentle, as if you / Were the last raw egg in the world.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

22. a blessing in disguise.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

23. Love is a young green willow / shimmering at the bare wood's edge.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

24. If no one came to try it / the world / would be the loser.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

25. The whole world / became my garden!

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

26. There's a blue bird in my heart that / wants to get out / but I'm too tough for him, / I say, stay in there, I'm not going / to let anybody see you.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.

27. I wanted her to show up / I crossed my fingers.

What technique is being used? \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, or Hyperbole

Figure out what is meant:

Write a sentence explaining the meaning.