

Figurative Language

Metaphor Reference Notebook

When a writer uses **figurative language**, they want to appeal to the reader's **senses, imagination** or **sense of humour**. The meaning of a figurative language phrase goes **beyond the literal meaning** of each individual word.

Song lyrics are a great place to find figurative language. Can you find the examples of **METAPHOR** in this song excerpt?

Cut out around the edges of the box and glue the song into your book. Highlight each **METAPHOR** you find and explain what it really means.

“I’m Already There”

by Lonestar (excerpt)

I’m already there
Take a look around
I’m the sunshine in your hair
I’m the shadow on the ground
I’m the whisper in the wind
I’m your imaginary friend
And I know I’m in your prayers
Oh I’m already there

I’m already there
Don’t make a sound
I’m the beat in your heart
I’m the moonlight shining down
I’m the whisper in the wind
And I’ll be there until the end

Now cut out this quick reference guide to METAPHOR and glue it into your book to remind you how this type of figurative language works.

Metaphor

Metaphors are phrases or expressions which compare two unlike things. A metaphor implies that one thing is actually another.

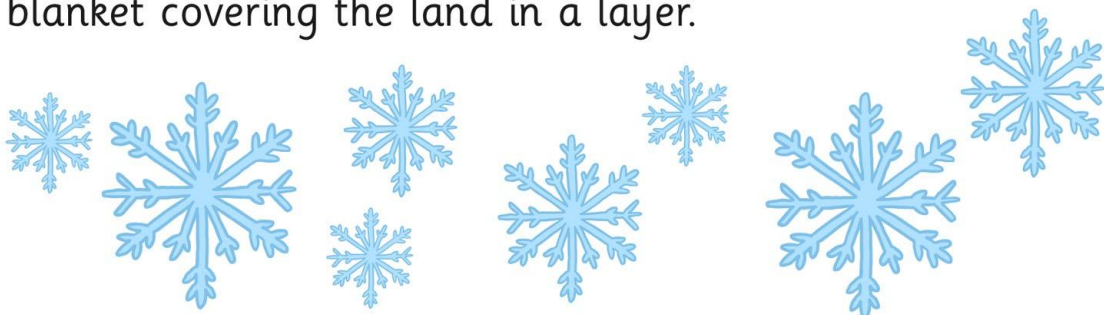
Metaphors usually contain *be/was/is/etc.* For example:
The falling snowflakes are dancers fluttering in the air.
All the world is a stage.

Adding 'like' or 'as' turns the metaphor into a simile. However, the metaphor is a stronger comparison. For example:

The falling snowflakes are like dancers fluttering in the air.
All the world is like a stage.

Metaphors should be clear for the reader, by comparing two things which have some sort of link. For example:
The snow is a cushion. This doesn't make sense, because the reader can't picture the snow cushion or what it does. Compare that with...

The snow is a soft white blanket over the hills. This makes sense because the reader can think of a thick blanket covering the land in a layer.



Answers:

“I’m Already There”

by Lonestar (excerpt)

The singer wants the listener to feel bright and happy, like sun shining on clean hair.



The singer wants the listener to know they’ll always be there, like their own shadow.



Your heartbeat never stops – the singer never stops loving or thinking about the listener.



Even at night time, the singer will be there, watching over the listener, like the moon in the night sky.

I’m already there
Take a look around
I’m the sunshine in your hair
I’m the shadow on the ground
I’m the whisper in the wind
I’m your imaginary friend
And I know I’m in your prayers
Oh I’m already there

The listener can hear the singer’s voice everywhere, even in all the natural sounds around them, such as the wind.



A child’s imaginary friend is always available to play or to comfort them. The singer wants the listener to think of them like that.

I’m already there
Don’t make a sound
I’m the beat in your heart
I’m the moonlight shining down
I’m the whisper in the wind
And I’ll be there until the end