

# Describing a Storm



# Figurative Language

Figurative language uses figures of speech to describe something. This includes using comparisons to help the reader imagine what you are describing and to create a particular effect.

**Similes** are an example of figurative language. Similes compare one thing with another – usually something the reader is familiar with. They use ‘as’ or ‘like’ to make the comparison.

He was **as** brave  
**as** a lion.

She is a  
**shining** star.

**Metaphors** are another example of figurative language. Unlike similes, they don’t compare one thing to another; instead, they say a person or object *is* something else.

**Personification** is also a type of figurative language. This involves giving an inanimate object human qualities to make it seem as though it is alive.

The tree  
**whispered** in  
the wind.

# Using Figurative Language to Describe a Storm



Look at the illustration. Can you think of ways to complete the following similes?

The waves were as tall as \_\_\_\_\_.

The wind was as fierce as \_\_\_\_\_.

The lightning lit up the sky like \_\_\_\_\_.

The thunder was as loud as \_\_\_\_\_.

The boat rocked like a \_\_\_\_\_.

## Challenge!

Can you come up with some metaphors to describe the storm?

**The waves were mountains.**

# Using Figurative Language to Describe a Storm



Below are examples of personification to describe the wind and thunder. Can you think of some other examples of 'human' noises that could be used to describe the wind and thunder?

**The wind shrieked.**

**The thunder growled.**

Here are some examples:

cried	wailed	whispered	moaned
boomed	shouted	bellowed	roared

Can you put these examples (or your own examples) in order from quietest to loudest? Compare your answers with a partner or the rest of the class.

# Using Senses

Using the five senses in descriptive writing can help the reader to imagine the scene.

What are the five senses?



**sight**



**sound**



**smell**



**taste**



**touch**

# Using Senses to Describe a Storm



Look at the image. Imagine you are the child in this scene. How could you use the five senses to describe the scene?

**What can you see?**

lightning, waves, night sky

**What can you hear?**

thunder, wind, waves crashing, boat creaking

**What can you smell?**

engine oil

**What can you taste?**

salty water

**What can you touch?**

the steering wheel, the inside of the boat, your parents

# Using 'Show Not Tell'

Instead of saying how you are feeling, another good writing technique is to 'show not tell'. This means describing the physical responses that come with an emotion and allowing the reader to infer what emotion the character is feeling.

## What emotion is being described here?

Her eyes shone brightly and she smiled from ear to ear.	<b>happiness</b>
A tear dripped down his cheek as he looked down to the floor.	<b>sadness</b>
Her face began to turn red as her fists clenched together tightly.	<b>anger</b>
His heart began to pound and a trickle of sweat ran down his back.	<b>fright/worry</b>

# Using 'Show Not Tell' to Describe a Storm



Look at the image. How do you think you would be feeling? Can you use 'show not tell' to describe your emotions?

heart pounding

hands shaking

butterflies in stomach

legs feeling weak

mouth open

eyes wide

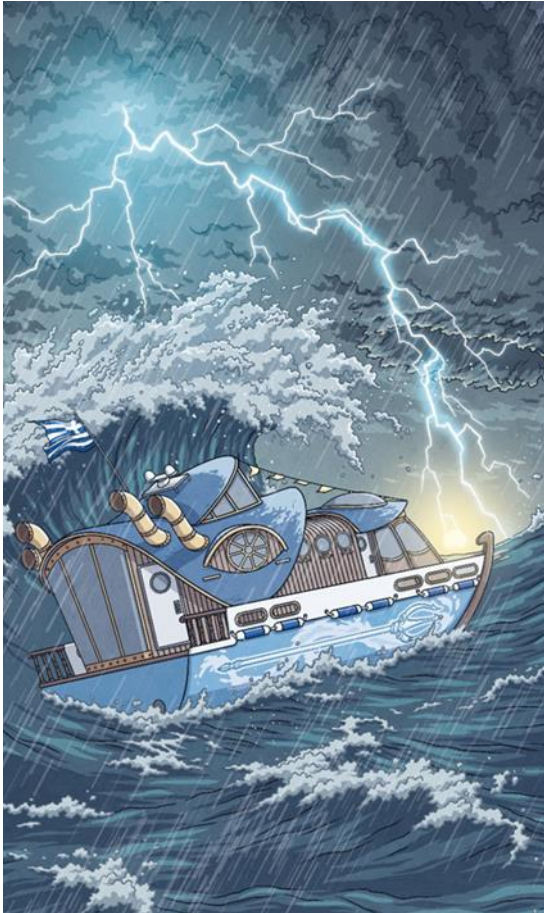
voice trembling

What other examples did you come up with?





# Describing a Storm



The boat rolls and sways in the frothing water as the sea pounds against us. Mum guides the bow expertly through the waves.

Standing next to her in the small wheelhouse section at the front of the boat, I steady myself against the dashboard. Mum adjusts her grip on the wheel at the helm. Rain pelts the roof, cranking up in volume. It sounds like tonnes of tiny pebbles being relentlessly dumped on us from the dark grey clouds above. We're being thrashed by the sea and the sky: wetted and weighed into by the two opposing forces.

With each wave that I feel battering against us, the sound on the roof and the rocking of the boat suggest the storm conditions are getting worse. I imagine every nail and every screw vibrating in their positions. Every patched-up panel, every nut and bolt that Mum has tightened and checked needs to brace itself, now, and stay firm. I close my eyes and imagine that we're on calmer waters.

# Describing a Storm



Can you continue the story and describe the storm?

Remember to try to include:

figurative language

powerful verbs

description of the five senses

show not tell

**Describing a Storm**

Read the following extract from 'Attila and the Ancient Greeks'. Can you continue the story and describe the storm?

The boat rocks and sways in the foaming water as the sea pounds against us. Mum guides the boat expertly through the waves.

Standing next to her in the small wheelhouse section at the front of the boat, I steady myself against the dashboard. Mum adjusts her grip on the wheel at the helm. Rain pelt the roof, crackling up in volume. It sounds like tonnes of soggy pillows being relentlessly dumped on us from the dark grey clouds above. We're being thrashed by the sea and the sky, wetted and weighed into by the two opposing forces.

With each wave that I feel battering against us, the sound on the roof and the rocking of the boat suggest the storm conditions are getting worse. I imagine every nail and every screw vibrating in their positions. Every patch-up panel, every nut and bolt that Mum has tightened and checked needs to brace itself, now, and stay firm. I close my eyes and imagine that we're in colder waters.

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**Describing a Storm**

Use the first page to note down any ideas you have.

Figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification):

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Describing the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch):

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Show not tell:

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