# Interpreting figurative language

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

## Practice

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Authors use **figurative language** to make descriptions *more interesting*. **Figurative language** *does not mean exactly what the words say*.

- A **simile** compares two things in a creative way, *using the words "like" or "as."* Similes are thought of as artistic ways to describe things.
- A **metaphor** compares two things in a creative way *without using the words "like" or "as."* Metaphors are thought of as artistic ways to describe things.
- An **idiom** is a simile or a metaphor that *many people often use to describe something*.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Here are some short descriptions. Think about what kind of **figurative language** the author is using to make the descriptions *more interesting*.

> Crow tapped Miss Hickory's hickory nut head with his long yellow beak. "Don't be so hard-headed, Miss Hickory," he said. "It is just as I have told you. The family is leaving, and you should start getting ready to move."

1. What kind of figurative language is the underlined phrase?
   A. a simile
   B. a metaphor
   C. an idiom

> Miss Hickory held on tight as Crow flew her to the new house he had found for her. He set her down on the edge of a large bird's nest. She looked around for a while, and decided to make the best of things. "Why, it is a penthouse!" she exclaimed.

2. What kind of figurative language is the underlined phrase?
   A. a simile
   B. a metaphor
   C. an idiom


© www.k5learning.com

LIVEWORKSHEETS

> Squirrel looked embarrassed. "The reason that I keep forgetting where I buried my nuts is that I was an only child."
> Miss Hickory gave Squirrel a stern look. "That is no excuse at all," she said. "Just look at you hopping about like a flea! You really should be more responsible."

3. What kind of figurative language is the underlined phrase?
   A. a simile
   B. a metaphor
   C. an idiom

> When spring came, Miss Hickory used some soft new leaves to sew herself a skirt, and she knitted a sweater out of blades of grass. She had made it through the winter, and she was feeling more and more at home in the forest. She was as happy as a clam.

4. What kind of figurative language use in this description?
   A. a simile
   B. a metaphor
   C. an idiom

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

5. How does Crow's calling Miss Hickory "hard-headed" make this description more interesting?

_____

6. How does Miss Hickory's saying that the bird's nest "is a penthouse" make this description more interesting?

_____

7. How does Miss Hickory's saying that Squirrel is "hopping about like a flea" make this description more interesting?

_____


© www.k5learning.com
LIVEWORKSHEETS
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~