

Worksheet: Allegory & Euphemism

Allegory: A story, poem, or other work in which characters, events, and settings represent deeper meanings, such as moral lessons, political ideas, or human qualities.

Example: A story about animals who overthrow a farmer and establish their own government may represent a revolution and the corruption of political power.

Euphemism: A mild or indirect expression used instead of one that might be unpleasant, harsh, embarrassing, or offensive.

Example: "He passed away" is a euphemism for "He died."

Part 1: Identify the Literary Device

Directions: Identify the literary device - Write **A** for Allegory or **E** for Euphemism on the line to

1. ____ The company announced that several employees were "let go" instead of saying they were fired.
2. ____ A story about a kingdom ruled by a greedy king teaches readers about the dangers of corruption and abuse of power.
3. ____ My grandfather "is no longer with us," my mother explained gently.
4. ____ In a story, a tiny mouse defeats a powerful lion, symbolizing how courage and determination can overcome oppression.
5. ____ The school announced that a student had "made a poor choice" rather than publicly describing the student's misconduct.
6. ____ A tale about a garden in which weeds slowly take over represents how selfishness can destroy a community.
7. ____ The elderly man was described as being "in his golden years."
8. ____ A fictional journey through a dark forest represents a person's struggle to overcome temptation and discover the truth.

Part 2: Multiple-Choice Questions

Directions: Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. What is the main purpose of an allegory?
 - A. To provide a detailed description of a setting
 - B. To communicate a deeper meaning through characters and events
 - C. To replace difficult words with easier words
 - D. To make every story humorous
2. Which sentence contains a euphemism?
 - A. The thunder roared across the sky.
 - B. The boy ran as fast as lightning.
 - C. The business is experiencing a period of downsizing.
 - D. The moon smiled down on the village.
3. Which situation is the best example of an allegory?
 - A. A character says, "I'm feeling under the weather."
 - B. A story about animals competing for food represents economic inequality.
 - C. A person says someone has "passed away."
 - D. A writer describes a beautiful sunset.

4. Why might a writer use a euphemism?
- A. To make a sensitive subject sound less harsh
 - B. To create a hidden moral lesson in an entire story
 - C. To explain the setting of a story
 - D. To make a sentence longer
5. Which statement about allegory is true?
- A. It always includes a real historical person.
 - B. It uses only humorous characters.
 - C. It communicates symbolic or deeper meanings through a narrative.
 - D. It is another name for a synonym.

Part 3: Read and Analyze

Directions: Read each passage and Fill in the blanks for the questions below.

Passage A: The Two Villages

Two villages stood beside a river. In the first village, the people worked together to build a strong bridge that everyone could use. In the second village, each person built a private bridge and refused to help anyone else. When a terrible storm arrived, the shared bridge survived, but the private bridges collapsed. The people of the second village learned that cooperation made everyone stronger.

1. Which literary device does this passage best represent?
Allegory or Euphemism
2. What deeper lesson does the passage communicate?
The passage teaches that _____ and working together make a community _____.
3. What might the shared bridge symbolize?
The shared bridge may symbolize _____, _____, or mutual support.

Passage B: A Difficult Announcement

After several years of financial problems, the company announced that it would be “reducing its workforce.” Many employees would no longer have jobs, but the company chose these words to make the announcement sound less harsh.

1. Which literary device is used in the phrase “reducing its workforce”?
Allegory or Euphemism
2. What does the phrase actually mean?
It means that the company will _____ employees or eliminate their _____.
3. Why might the company choose this expression instead of saying “firing employees”?
The company may want to communicate the news in a _____ harsh or upsetting way.

Part 4: Allegory or Euphemism?

Directions: Identify the literary device and fill-in-the-blank for the explanation.

1. A story describes a town where a mysterious fog causes people to forget the truth. The fog represents the dangers of ignorance and misinformation.

Device: Allegory or Euphemism

Explanation: The fog symbolizes _____ and misinformation, and the story communicates a deeper lesson about the importance of _____.

2. Instead of saying that a person is poor, a speaker describes the person as “financially disadvantaged.”

Device: Allegory or Euphemism

Explanation: “*Financially disadvantaged*” is a more _____ and less harsh way to describe someone who is poor.

3. In a fictional story, a group of birds elects a leader who promises freedom but eventually takes away everyone's rights. The story represents the dangers of dictatorship.

Device: Allegory or Euphemism

Explanation: The birds' government represents _____ and the loss of individual _____.

4. A hospital describes a patient as being “between jobs” when explaining that the patient recently lost employment.

Device: Allegory or Euphemism

Explanation: “*Between jobs*” is a _____ expression for being unemployed or having _____ a job.