

Stage 3 Writing Tips for Parents



Figurative Language



Syllabus Links

EN3-2A: composes, edits and presents well-structured and coherent texts.

Content: - understand, interpret and experiment with the use of imagery in imaginative texts, poetry and songs, e.g. similes, metaphors, personification and sound devices such as alliteration

Advice for Parents

Figurative language creates comparisons by linking the five senses and our imagination. Words or phrases are used in a non-literal way for particular effect, for example simile, metaphor, personification. Figurative language may also use elements of other senses, as in hearing with onomatopoeia. Another way to improve figurative language in writing is by providing your child with appropriate books to read. Authors such as Anthony Horowitz, Katherine Roberts and James Dashner use a range of figurative language techniques in their stories which will greatly benefit their writing.

Activities at Home

Here are some activities that you may want to try at home to help your child improve their figurative language.

Fetch Figurative Language

Using a novel of their choice, students identify examples of figurative language including similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, hyperboles and personification. Students can discuss what the figurative language means.

E.g. ... Uncle Vernon had been treating him like a bomb that might go off at any moment...

Like indicates a simile, comparing something to something else.

Identifying Idioms

Definition: a word or phrase which means something different from its literal meaning.

E.g. The ball is in your court

It is up to you to make the next decision or action.

Using an online tool, students look for 5 idioms they have not heard before and define them. They then write a story and incorporate the idioms to convey their message.

Music Mania

Students are to find the lyrics of a song they are interested in. Students are then to re-write the chorus using a variety of figurative language. They may sing this to themselves with the melody of the song and reflect on the change in meaning.

**E.g. You're a falling star, you're the getaway car.
You're the line in the sand when I go too far.**

Stating a person is something else is an example of metaphor.

Only Onomatopoeia

Definition: is word that mimics the sound of the object or action it refers to.

Students are to draw a series of pictures involving actions. Using only onomatopoeia, students try to tell a story of what is happening in their pictures.



