Grades 4-8

27 creative activities to enrich your ELA program.

Figurative Language Task Cards

✓ 7 Types of figurative language
✓ Definitions and examples on each card
✓ Aligned to CCSS ELA-Literacy L.5

by Rachel Lynette
Figurative Language Task Cards

Use these 27 Figurative Language Task for ELA enrichment. Seven types of figurative language are included: simile, metaphor, idiom, hyperbole, personification, onomatopoeia, and alliteration. The tasks on these cards are designed to be done without extra help or extra materials other than paper and pencil, and are mostly writing based.

Each card is numbered so students can easily track which cards they have completed. A student recording sheet is also included. These cards will look best in color, but will also print out fine in grayscale. Simply print and cut along the guidelines. Laminate and use them again and again. Another option is to print on card stock. The labels on this page can be used for your Figurative Language Center or on the container/baggie you use to hold the task cards.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

  CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.5a Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., as pretty as a picture) in context.

  CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.5b Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

  CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.5a Interpret figurative language, including similes and metaphors, in context.

  CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.5b Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

  CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.5a Interpret figures of speech (e.g., personification) in context.

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Similes are used to compare two things that are different in most ways but are the same in one, important way. The words “like” and “as” are used to compare the two things.

Examples: The kitten’s fur was like velvet. Maria was as graceful as a swan.

Write five similes about yourself.

Find at least 5 similes in books and write them down. Then put a star next to your favorite one.

Similes are used to compare two things that are different in most ways but are the same in one, important way. The words “like” and “as” are used to compare the two things.

Examples: The kitten’s fur was like velvet. Maria was as graceful as a swan.

Write a descriptive paragraph about one of your favorite places. Use at least 3 similes.

Similes are used to compare two things that are different in most ways but are the same in one, important way. The words “like” and “as” are used to compare the two things.

Examples: The kitten’s fur was like velvet. Maria was as graceful as a swan.

Write six similes about things that are found in nature.

Similes are used to compare two things that are different in most ways but are the same in one, important way. The words “like” and “as” are used to compare the two things.

Examples: The kitten’s fur was like velvet. Maria was as graceful as a swan.
Metaphors are used to compare two things that are different in most ways but are the same in one, important way. A metaphor states that one thing is something else.

Examples: Susie's hair is a rats nest.
Andy's fingers were icicles.

Write four metaphors about things that are found in nature. Illustrate one of your metaphors.

An idiom is a well-known phrase that means something different than what the words seem to mean.

Examples: That was a piece of cake.
Don't rock the boat.

Choose an idiom and draw a picture of what the words seem to say. Then write what the idiom actually means.
An idiom is a well-known phrase that means something different than what the words seem to mean.

Examples: That was a piece of cake. Don’t rock the boat.

Write a short story about doing something fun with a friend. Include as many idioms as you can. It is okay if your story is a little silly.

An idiom is a well-known phrase that means something different than what the words seem to mean.

Examples: That was a piece of cake. Don’t rock the boat.

List as many idioms about animals as you can. Try to get at least ten idioms on your list.

An idiom is a well-known phrase that means something different than what the words seem to mean.

Examples: That was a piece of cake. Don’t rock the boat.

Create a new idiom. Write what the idiom means and then use the idiom in four different sentences that demonstrate its meaning.

Hyperbole is when a statement is exaggerated to make a point.

Examples: I called you a million times. He is older than the hills.

Write four statements about yourself. Then rewrite them using hyperbole.
Hyperbole is when a statement is exaggerated to make a point.

Examples: I called you a million times. He is older than the hills.

Write a short story about a place that you went. Include at least three examples of hyperbole in your story.

Personification is giving human qualities (actions, feelings, thoughts) to nonhuman objects.

Examples: The leaves danced in the wind. The bells sang on the sled.

Write a short story about making and eating breakfast. Include at least three examples of personification. Illustrate your story.

Hyperbole is when a statement is exaggerated to make a point.

Examples: I called you a million times. He is older than the hills.

Write five statements that contain hyperbole about things you see in the room around you.

Personification is giving human qualities (actions, feelings, thoughts) to nonhuman objects.

Examples: The leaves danced in the wind. The bells sang on the sled.

Write a short story about making and eating breakfast. Include at least three examples of personification. Illustrate your story.

Personify an object in the room. Write a paragraph from that object's point of view.
**Personification** is giving human qualities (actions, feelings, thoughts) to nonhuman objects.

Examples: The leaves danced in the wind. The bells sang on the sled.

Find at least five examples of personification in books or poems. Write them down. Put a star next to your favorite one.

**Onomatopoeia** is a word that sounds like its meaning.

Examples: buzz, creak, splash, crackle

Write a story about eating lunch in a park. Use as many onomatopoeias as can.

Make a list of as many onomatopoeias as you can. Try to get at least twenty words on your list. Then choose five words to use in sentences.

Create a new onomatopoeia. Tell what your new word means then use it in four different sentences that demonstrate its meaning.
Alliteration is when the beginning sound of a word is repeated two or more times in a phrase or sentence.

Examples: Tommy took two tomatoes.
            Please pass the peas.

Write alliterative sentences for each of these letters:
T, S, W, M.

Choose a letter and write the longest alliterative sentence that you can with it.
Illustrate your sentence.

Find examples of four different types of figurative language in books or poems. Write down each example and tell which type of figurative language it is.

Write a paragraph explaining one type of figurative language. Include at least three examples in your paragraph.
Write a paragraph about something you did this week. Include as many different examples of figurative language as you can.

Write a non-rhyming poem about your favorite season using as many different examples of figurative language as you can.

Make a chart with seven columns, Head each column with one of the following figures of speech:

- simile
- metaphor
- idiom
- hyperbole
- personification
- onomatopoeia
- alliteration

Put a tally mark in the column whenever you hear or read an example of that type of figure of speech.
Use this chart to keep track of the Figurative Language Task Cards that you have completed. Remember to have your teacher initial or stamp the ✓ column.

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Thank you so much for downloading this product! You can get more Task Cards for a variety of subjects here:  http://bit.ly/sZYtu1

You may also want to check out:

- Highly rated
- Often CCSS Aligned
- Focused on higher level thinking skills