

Figurative Language
Standing Ground from
Chapter Entitled “Surprise Attack”

When you describe something by comparing it with something else, this is figurative language. It is language that goes beyond the literal meaning of words in order to create an emotional effect or to create insight.

Simile

It is when a direct comparison between two unlike things is made. The words “like” or “as” are usually used.

Example: The street is as crooked as a crack.

Imagery

Language used in terms of our senses.

Example: “She lifted her head up, showing the powdery skin below her chin. The tiny bell on her necklace rang as she stretched out her arms. Her tiny fingers rubbed on the ceiling. Pink, beautiful knuckles were soft and white.”

Metaphor

An implied comparison between two relatively unlike things using a form of be. The comparison is not announced by like or as.

Example: The hill was a nest of cotton.

Personification

This occurs when the qualities of a person are given to an animal, an object, or an idea.

Example: The yo-yo danced with its other partners at the toy contest. (Here, a toy is given the qualities of a human being)

Alliteration

Repeated consonant sounds occurring at the beginning of words or within words.

Example: The boy bought a billion bags of bubble gum.

Onomatopoeia

Words that mimic sounds and appeal to our sense of hearing.

Example: “Boom!”

Hyperbole

It is an exaggerated statement.

Example: “If I have told you once, I have told you a million times!”

Use the first chapter of *Standing Ground* entitled “Surprise Attack” to answer the following questions regarding figurative language.

1. Which type of figurative language is used in the following passage from the chapter “Surprise Attack”?

(A) “Smoke from the mufflers of passing cars hit them in the face.” (pg. 16)

(B) “Without warning, a rock buzzed by his ear, crashing through the window of a vacant building behind them.” (pg. 17)

(C) “Again, hunger would be a familiar friend for a couple of nights.” (pg. 18)

2. Rewrite the following sentence from “Surprise Attack” using (A) simile and (B) metaphor.

Sentence: “A thin shimmer of light cascaded through the window from the street lamps outside and dimly lit one side of Israel’s face.”

(A) Sentence using simile:

(B) Sentence using metaphor:

3. Choose a sentence in “Surprise Attack” where onomatopoeia can be used and write it below:

4. Use alliteration to change and add emphasis to the following quote from “Surprise Attack”.

“Sirens blared outside in the dark.” (pg. 20)
