

Poetry: Figurative Language

Figurative language presents ordinary things in fresh ways, communicating ideas that go beyond words' ordinary meanings. Three types of figurative language are:

- **simile:** a comparison that contains the signal word *like* or *as*; as in "strong as steel."
- **metaphor:** a comparison without signal words, as in "My father is a tall, sturdy oak."
- **personification:** giving human qualities to an animal, object, or idea, as in "the breeze caressed her cheek."

Writers use figurative language to emphasize ideas, evoke emotions, shape mood, and create other effects. Use a chart like the one below to identify figurative language and its effects.

Title:

Author:

Words or Phrases	Type of Figurative Language	Effect Created