Creative Writing
Quarter 3 – Module 2:
Figures of Speech

Name of Learner: ____________________________
Grade & Section: ____________________________
Name of School: ____________________________
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What I Need to Know

One of the traits of creative writing is word choice. Creative writers and/or literary artists take special care in choosing what words to use in their works or pieces that would best reinforce its theme or subject. Just by reading a work of creative writing, you can already distinguish it from other forms of writing because of the special style in language authors, poets and playwrights use. This is largely because of the presence of figures of speech.

This module is made for you to understand some of the most common figures of speech and it provides you with a world view of subjects, topics, and content that adds to your knowledge.

In this module, you are expected to:

- Use imagery, diction, figures of speech, and specific experiences to evoke meaningful responses from readers. HUMSS_CW/MP11/12-1a-b-4

What I Know

Directions: Choose the letter of the best answer, and write them on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Which genre of literature requires the use of a metaphor?
   a. long fiction    c. drama
   b. short fiction   d. poetry

2. Which statement best describes the role of figures of speech in a literary piece?
   a. They emphasize its theme or subject through comparison or description.
   b. They distort rules of grammar or mechanics as a style of writing.
   c. They explain the facts or pieces of information used in a report.
   d. They identify the list of bibliographic references or sources.

3. Though figures of speech are common in works of creative writing, which one would be the LEAST likely to use it?
   a. science fiction    c. children’s book
   b. dystopian novel    d. autobiography

4. “Her smile radiates like the sun in noontime.” This sentence uses which figure of speech?
   a. simile             c. hyperbole
   b. metaphor           d. personification

5. “Exhausted, he slept for a year.” This sentence uses which figure of speech?
   a. simile             c. hyperbole
   b. metaphor           d. personification
Creative writing is identified with literature because it uses language to elevate what is common into a special reading experience. It uses a unique style of writing to convey meaning through a unique use of words.

In either prose or poetry, these words are arranged in an artistic way to create images in the mind of the reader or to highlight a detail through description. Though common in literary pieces, figures of speech—specifically *metaphors*, are required in a poem. On the other hand, works that deal with historical events such as autobiographies and creative nonfiction would least likely use it.

A figure of speech is a deviation from the ordinary use of words in order to increase their effectiveness. Basically, it may consist of a single word or phrase.

We have now defined *figures of speech* as an element of creative writing. There are hundreds of figures of speech, the succeeding section identifies some of the most common with examples for easy recognition.

**What’s In**

Directions: Below is an excerpt from Mark Twain’s *Life on the Mississippi*. Read it and answer the succeeding questions. Place your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Cool water flows through the rocky banks of the creek and into a wide pond. Reeds and cattails surrounding the bank embrace the pond like a mother’s enfolding arms reaching out to caress her sleeping child. Like a beaming, proud mother’s eye, the sun drenches the scene with its loving warmth. Just beneath the sparkling surface of the water, minnows shoot from rock to rock like silver darts thrust like scattershot by some unseen hand. (Source: distancelearningassociates.org)

1. What is being described in the excerpt?
   a. A river.
   b. A mother.
   c. A sleeping child.
   d. A school of fish.
2. “… the cattails… embrace the pond like a mother’s enfolding arms reaching out to caress her sleeping child.” The phrase in bold type in this sentence is an example of?
   a. simile  c. hyperbole  
   b. metaphor  d. personification

3. What does the passage give us?
   a. data  c. items and percentages  
   b. facts  d. sensory details

Directions: Below is an excerpt from Manuel E. Arguilla’s How My Brother Leon Brought Home A Wife. Read it and answer the succeeding questions. Place your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

She stepped down from the carretela of Ca Celin with a quick, delicate grace. She was lovely. She was tall. She looked up to my brother with a smile, and her forehead was on a level with his mouth.

“You are Baldo,” she said and placed her hand lightly on my shoulder. Her nails were long, but they were not painted. She was fragrant like a morning when papayas are in bloom. And a small dimple appeared momentarily high on her right cheek. “And this is Labang of whom I have heard so much.” She held the wrist of one hand with the other and looked at Labang, and Labang never stopped chewing his cud. He swallowed and brought up to his mouth more cud and the sound of his insides was like a drum.

I laid a hand on Labang’s massive neck and said to her: “You may scratch his forehead now.”

She hesitated and I saw that her eyes were on the long, curving horns. But she came and touched Labang’s forehead with her long fingers, and Labang never stopped chewing his cud except that his big eyes half closed. And by and by she was scratching his forehead very daintily. (Source: seasite.niu.edu)

4. In the second paragraph, the narrator describes?
   a. Baldo  
   b. Ca Celin  
   c. Labang  
   d. Unnamed woman

5. “She was fragrant like a morning when papayas are in bloom. And a small dimple appeared momentarily high on her right cheek.” The phrase in bold type in this sentence is an example of?
   a. simile  c. hyperbole  
   b. metaphor  d. personification

6. What does the passage give us?
   c. data  c. items and percentages  
   d. facts  d. sensory details
Directions: Copy the following on a separate sheet of paper and draw a check mark beside the sentence that you think contains a figure of speech.

____ 1. The morning exploded right before our eyes, announcing a brand-new day.
____ 2. Fifty-four (54) families were evacuated after floods hit the village.
____ 3. The distance from Zamboanga City to Pagadian City is at 267.5 kilometers.
____ 4. She blushed like a ripe apple ready for harvest.
____ 5. He was nighttime to everyone’s sunny day.

**What Is It**

There are hundreds of types of figures of speech. Here are some of the most common ones.

1. **Simile.** In this figure of speech, two unlike thing are directly compared, and are introduced by words such as *like, so, as.*

   Example: “Listening to her report was like watching grass grow.”

2. **Metaphor.** Similar to simile, but in metaphor the comparison is implied because it does not use words such as *like, so, as.*

   Example: “Though adopted, their daughter proved to be the star of their family.”

3. **Personification.** In personification, human-like attributes are used to describe inanimate objects or abstract notions.

   Example: “An unforgiving cold blanketed the city.”

4. **Metonymy.** Metonymy substitutes a name for the thing or item meant. Some common metonymy expressions include “Lend me your ears” where *ears* refer to an audience or attention. Another is, “Give me a hand” where *hand* means ‘help or assistance.’

5. **Apostrophe.** This figure of speech is a direct address or call to some inanimate object or some abstract idea as if it were living person or some absent person as if it were present.

   Example: “Hope! Where are you? Why have you deserted our land?”
6. **Hyperbole.** A hyperbole is a figure of speech that uses exaggeration to emphasize comparison in a sentence.

Example: “The dishwashers were welcomed by towers of plates after the wedding reception.”

7. **Synecdoche.** Synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a part of something is used to signify the whole, or vice-versa.

Example: “Malacañang earlier approved the increase in teacher’s salaries.” (In this example, Malacañang is used to represent the president of the Philippines and his office.)

8. **Transferred epithet.** This is a figure of speech in which a modifier (usually an adjective) describes a noun other than the person or object it is actually describing. Say for example, “Sara has an unhappy marriage.” Marriage can neither be happy or unhappy because it is not capable of feelings. However, in this example, Sara and her husband could be unhappy. It is then a transferred epithet. It transfers the modifier, “unhappy,” to the word “marriage.”

9. **Antithesis.** In antithesis, a glaring contrast of words is made in the same sentence for emphasis. An example would be the words uttered by Neil Armstrong the moment he stepped on the Moon: “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

10. **Oxymoron.** It is a figure of speech which combines two opposing or incongruous words in one phrase/sentence for emphasis. An example of this use would be the phrases “wise fool” or “deafening silence.”

11. **Litotes.** Litotes is a figure of speech in which a negative statement is used to affirm or declare a positive statement or sentiment.

Example: “The field trip was fine, though. It wasn’t a terrible trip.”

12. **Onomatopoeia.** This figure of speech uses sounds from nature or the environment, usually animal sounds, as regular words in a sentence.

Examples: “A loud thud was heard from the room above theirs.”

“They listened as raindrops pitter patter on the roof.”
Activity 1: DESCRIBE A PICTURE

Directions: Based on the images below, create five (5) sentences that utilize five (5) different figures of speech. Underline the words/terms being compared and identify what figure of speech you used. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Image 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENTENCE</th>
<th>FIGURE OF SPEECH USED</th>
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Activity 2: ONOMATOPOEIA

Directions: Fill the following sentences with the right onomatopoeia. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. The candidate’s long gown made a _____ noise as she walked on the runway.
2. He could hardly sleep that night, so he ended up counting each _____ of the clock.
3. Albert was obviously furious when he closed the door with a loud _____.
4. I could hear the ducks _____ from across the pond.
5. The bees _____ around the blooming garden.

Activity 3: PERSONIFICATION

Directions: Personify the following sentences. Change the words in parentheses to words that would describe a human’s actions. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Brownie, our pet dog (barked) when I had to leave for school.
2. The mango (fell) from the tree.
3. Mia was making some fruit shake in the kitchen as the blender (made a noise).
4. Because of the heavy traffic, the car (moved) on the avenue.
5. The net (moves) whenever the player dunks the basketball.
What I Have Learned

Directions: Read the texts and fill the gaps. Choose the answer from the words inside the box.
Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

A __________ is a deviation from the ordinary use of words in order to increase their effectiveness. Though common in literary pieces, figures of speech –specifically __________, are required in a poem.

In __________, two unlike thing are directly compared. In __________, human-like attributes are used to describe inanimate objects. “Give me a hand” is an example of __________. __________ is a direct address to an abstract idea as if it were living person. A hyperbole uses __________ to emphasize comparison. Synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a part of something is used to signify the __________. __________ is a figure of speech which combines two opposing words in one sentence. Onomatopoeia uses sounds from __________ as regular words.

What I Can Do

Though more often identified with literature, figures of speech are also found in many printed materials and online. Write down five (5) sentences or short paragraphs with figures of speech from five (5) different source materials. Place your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

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Directions: Read the questions and choose the letter of the best answer, and write these on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Which of the following would most likely use figures of speech to describe them?
   a. scientific facts
   b. emotions or feelings
   c. estimates and percentages
   d. factual names of people and places

2. In which of the following manuscripts/documents would you likely find figures of speech?
   a. city ordinances
   b. two-part novels
   c. hospital protocols
   d. laboratory manuals

3. Both similes and metaphors aim for?
   a. contrast
   b. continuation
   c. comparison
   d. compatibility

4. Both antithesis and oxymoron aim for?
   a. contrast
   b. comparison
   c. continuation
   d. compatibility

5. What does a hyperbole use as emphasis?
   a. enumeration
   b. exaggeration
   c. overstatement
   d. understatement

For items 6-10, identify the figures of speech used in each sentence.

6. “He is a monster in the tennis court.”
   a. simile
   b. metaphor
   c. hyperbole
   d. personification
7. “A champion swimmer, Roger glided like a fish in the pool.”
   a. simile  
   b. metaphor  
   c. hyperbole  
   d. personification

8. “He was quite arrogant even when he needed help. A rich beggar, indeed.”
   a. apostrophe  
   b. oxymoron  
   c. hyperbole  
   d. synecdoche

   a. apostrophe  
   b. synecdoche  
   c. hyperbole  
   d. personification

10. “City Hall gave a stern warning against people who go out without face masks.”
    a. apostrophe  
    b. synecdoche  
    c. hyperbole  
    d. personification

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**Additional Activities**

Directions: Below is the English translation of the 1924 Spanish poem by Nobel Prize-winner for Literature, Pablo Neruda. Read and identify the different figures of speech used in the text. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Tonight I can write the saddest lines.

Write, for example, ‘The night is shattered and the blue stars shiver in the distance.’

The night wind revolves in the sky and sings.

Tonight I can write the saddest lines.
I loved her, and sometimes she loved me too.

Through nights like this one I held her in my arms
I kissed her again and again under the endless sky.
She loved me sometimes, and I loved her too.
How could one not have loved her great still eyes.

Tonight I can write the saddest lines.
To think that I do not have her. To feel that I have lost her.

To hear the immense night, still more immense without her.
And the verse falls to the soul like dew to the pasture.

What does it matter that my love could not keep her.
The night is shattered and she is not with me.

This is all. In the distance someone is singing. In the distance.
My soul is not satisfied that it has lost her.

My sight searches for her as though to go to her.
My heart looks for her, and she is not with me.

The same night whitening the same trees.
We, of that time, are no longer the same.

I no longer love her, that's certain, but how I loved her.
My voice tried to find the wind to touch her hearing.

Another’s. She will be another’s. Like my kisses before.
Her voice. Her bright body. Her infinite eyes.

I no longer love her, that’s certain, but maybe I love her.
Love is so short, forgetting is so long.

Because through nights like this one I held her in my arms
my soul is not satisfied that it has lost her.

Though this be the last pain that she makes me suffer
and these the last verses that I write for her.
**Answer Key**

**Assessment**

1. b
2. b
3. c
4. a
5. b
6. b
7. a
8. b
9. a
10. b

**Activity 1** (Answers may vary)

1. swishing
2. tick
3. bang/crash
4. quacking
5. buzz

**Activity 2** (Answers may vary)

1. cried
2. slid
3. screamed
4. crawled
5. shakes

**Activity 3** (Answers may vary)

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. a
5. c

**What I Know**

1. d
2. a
3. c
References

Electronic Sources


Image


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