

**Identifying Figures of Speech
From Stories We've Read**

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

Simile: a comparison of two unlike things using the words *like, as, than,* or *resembles*.

Examples: *I wandered lonely as a cloud.* -- William Wordsworth

My love is like a red, red rose. -- Robert Burns

Metaphor: a comparison of two unlike things without using the words *like, as, than,* or *resembles*.

Examples: *The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas.* -- Alfred Noyes

I am a rock. I am an island. -- Paul Simon

Directions: Underline the figure of speech in the following sentences. Identify whether the figure of speech is a simile or a metaphor. Then write a brief explanation using complete sentences.

Example: My cousin Duffy had the brains of a turnip.

Figure of Speech: *metaphor*

Explanation: *Duffy's brains are being compared to those of a turnip. And since turnips don't have brains, this person is basically saying that Duffy is dumb.*

1. After looking outside the window, Duffy's eyes looked as big as the hard-boiled eggs we had eaten for supper.

Figure of Speech: _____

Explanation: _____

2. The Sentinel was tracking us down, like some giant bloodhound.

Figure of Speech: _____

Explanation: _____

3. Marie squeezed against my side, tighter than a tick in a dog's ear.

Figure of Speech: _____

Explanation: _____

4. Over her bridge, on her deck, in the rigging, on every visible spot, the ship was a writhing mass of rats—a starving army coming toward us aboard a vessel gone mad!

Figure of Speech: _____

Explanation: _____

5. A sighing groan came as the water rushed into the ship; then she split in two and sank like a stone.

Figure of Speech: _____

Explanation: _____

6. It was a living nightmare; the raging cries of the rats as they swarmed over the light, mad with hunger.

Figure of Speech: _____

Explanation: _____

7. The howling stopped suddenly, and Le Gleo's eyes swung around the room; then he bowed his head and began weeping softly, like a child.

Figure of Speech: _____

Explanation: _____

8. The tower covered with rats must have seemed fantastic to the men on the boats—some weird, many-mouthed beast hurling defiance at them.

Figure of Speech: _____

Explanation: _____

9. Of all the awful, slushy, out of the way places to live in, this is the worst. The pathway's a swamp, and the road's a torrent

Figure of Speech: _____

Explanation: _____

10. As I wished, the paw twisted in my hands like a snake.

Figure of Speech: _____

Explanation: _____
