

# Title: Figurative Language - Nursing

<b>Objectives:</b> The student will recognize, understand, and utilize basic figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, oxymoron, hyperbole, and allusion.	<b>Time frame to Complete:</b> 30 minutes
	<b>NRS EFL:</b> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p>

Technology	Study / Life skills	EL-Civics	Career Pathways	Police	Paramedic	Fire Rescue	Medical Asst.	EKG / Cardio	Phlebotomy	Practical Nursing	Healthcare Admin	Pharmacy Tech	IMT	AMT	HVAC	Welding	Other: Vet tech	STNA
	X						X	X	X	X	X						X	X

**Standard(s) Addressed in Lesson:**  
 Read with Understanding  
 Convey Ideas in Writing

**Benchmark(s) Addressed in Lesson:**  
 R.4.9. Identify and explain the use of figurative language (for example, hyperboles, personification, mixed metaphor) in text.  
 W4.2. Write for varying purposes (for example, to persuade, to explain, to entertain).  
 W.4.13. Use precise language, active voice and descriptive detail to effectively convey a message.

**Materials:**  
 Reference sheet listing figurative language techniques and their meanings.  
 Work sheet utilizing sentences exhibiting various figurative language.

**Learner Prior Knowledge:**  
 Basic knowledge of writing conventions.

Step 1: Distribute *Figurative Language Terms* to students. Read the terms aloud and discuss them. Encourage students to provide examples using the techniques. Discuss with the class why this figurative language might be appropriate (purpose) and who would enjoy or benefit from such language (audience). Ask the class to offer reasons for including such techniques in writing and what effect their usage has upon the reader (credibility). Note that people can convey information better if they utilize various techniques, such as comparisons or exaggerations. Patients and medical providers can use such techniques as "common language." "Common language" is when workers shrug the terminology of their professions when speaking to someone outside the field and can include figurative language. We, many times, strive for a common language to communicate; the lack of doing so is sometimes perceived as condescending or elitist.

Step 2: Each student will create sentences, utilizing each technique. Students should strive for colorful and creative diction that provides an accurate description that can be readily understood by the reader/listener.

Step 3: Students share their descriptions with the class.

**Assessment/Evidence:**

Students will share their sentences with classmates and discuss which are more effective and strive to determine why some are more effective than others.

**Adaptations for Beginning Students:**

Beginning students may be prompted with ideas offered by peers or the instructor. Such students may also be given extended time.

**Adaptations for Advanced Students:**

Advanced students may be asked to write more than the exercise requires. They may also be challenged to write a poem instead of prose. In addition, they may be given a challenging time limit for completing the assignment.

**Teacher Reflection/Lesson Evaluation:**

Students should easily perceive the importance of figurative language for creating vivid and accurate communication.

This lesson was created by Middletown ABLE.

## Literary Terms

### Figurative Language

#### Definitions and Examples

simile - comparison using *like* or *as*

His voice sounded like a machine in need of oil.

metaphor - comparison without using *like* or *as*

The hallways were tunnels of silence.

personification - giving human characteristics to the non-living

The curtains drowsily hugged the window.

oxymoron - two words which contradict one another

The jumbo shrimp were featured on the menu.

allusion - a reference to a person, place, or event of which most people are aware

The tall, lanky youth thought himself a Romeo.

hyperbole - an exaggeration or overstatement

I have a thousand patients to see this evening.

Literary Terms  
Figurative Language  
Exercises

Use a simile to finish these statements

1. The patient was as nervous as

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2. The 911 caller was as upset as

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3. The nurses chattered like

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4. The medication smelled like

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5. The doctor was as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_

6. The emergency room was as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_

7. The wound was as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_