


# February

## Figuratively Speaking



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# Featured Figures of Speech

## Simile

A comparison of two unlike things using the words “like” or “as.”  
*“Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.” Mohammad Ali*

## Metaphor

A comparison of two unlike things implying that something is a dissimilar object or thing. The words “like” or “as” are not used  
*Determined to carry the ball across the goal line, the football player was a warrior charging into the opposing army*

## Personification

The figure of speech that gives human characteristics or actions to non-living things.  
*The roar of racing cars coming from the family room TV lured me away from my computer.*

## Hyperbole

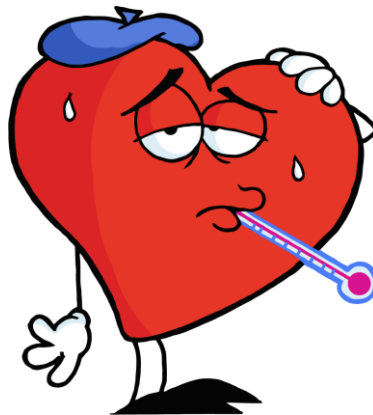
An exaggeration that cannot possibly be true.  
*Jackson always has a ton of homework to do when it's time to walk the dog.*

## Alliteration

The repetition of an initial consonant sound or of the same sound within several words.  
*Kevin crept quietly into the kitchen and placed Mom's Valentine's card on the counter.*

## Onomatopoeia

Words that represent sounds.  
*The rasping caw! caw! caw! of a crow is one of the most recognizable bird calls.*



# February

## Figuratively Speaking ( Part One)

As the month with the fewest number of days, February is a compact four weeks, but it can still hold its own as one of the most event-filled and celebrated months of the year. To begin with, it's designated as **Black History Month**. There's also **Valentine's Day** on the 14<sup>th</sup>, **Super Bowl Sunday**, and **Groundhog Day**. February is **National Bird Feeding Month** and **Responsible Pet Owner's Month**. Furthermore, it is host to a conglomerate of weekly and daily events including. . .



**International Friendship Week**

**Jell-o Week**

**National Pancake Week**

**Robinson Crusoe Day (1<sup>st</sup>)**

**Bubblegum Day (3<sup>rd</sup>)**

**Extraterrestrial Visitor Day (second Tuesday)**

**Lincoln's Birthday (12<sup>th</sup>)**

**Paul Bunyan Day (12<sup>th</sup>)**

**Pluto Day—the dwarf planet (18<sup>th</sup>)**

**President's Day (third Monday)**

**The Daytona 500**

**The Academy Awards**

**Leap Year (29<sup>th</sup>—Celebrated every four years)**

It's only fitting that our shortest month's jam-packed schedule be expressed in figurative language. Each of the following sentences relates to a February event and contains a *simile*, a *metaphor*, an example of *personification*, a *hyperbole*, *alliteration*, or an *onomatopoeia*. Study each item and then answer its accompanying question. Write the letters of your answers in the blanks to the left. Just for fun, see if you can match the sentence to a February occasion or celebration.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. *Mom tackled the run-away shopping cart like a Super Bowl quarterback and brought it to an abrupt halt.*

The figure of speech that described Mom's shopping cart interference is

- (A) a simile,
- (B) a metaphor,
- (C) personification,
- (D) alliteration.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. *"Hold fast to your dreams, for without them life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."* Langston Hughes

In this quote, *life is a broken winged bird* is an example of

- (A) a simile,
- (B) personification,
- (C) a metaphor,
- (D) a hyperbole.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. *Nature has no mercy at all. Nature says, "I'm going to snow. If you have on a bikini and no snowshoes, that's tough. I am going to snow anyway."* Maya Angelou

The figure of speech that Maya Angelou used in her humorous characterization of Nature is

- (A) a metaphor,
- (B) a hyperbole,
- (C) a simile,
- (D) personification.



# February

## Figuratively Speaking ( Part Two)

Following are twenty-five more sentences based on one of the February events listed below. Each one contains a figure of speech—a *simile*, a *metaphor*, a *hyperbole*, an example of *personification*, *alliteration*, or an *onomatopoeia*.

**Black History Month**  
**National Bird Feeding Month**  
**Responsible Pet Owner's Month**  
**Valentine's Day (14<sup>th</sup>)**  
**Super Bowl Sunday**  
**Groundhog Day (2<sup>nd</sup>)**  
**International Friendship Week**  
**Jell-o Week**  
**National Pancake Week**  
**Robinson Crusoe Day (1<sup>st</sup>)**

**Bubblegum Day (3<sup>rd</sup>)**  
**Extraterrestrial Visitor Day (second Tuesday)**  
**Lincoln's Birthday (12<sup>th</sup>)**  
**Paul Bunyan Day (12<sup>th</sup>)**  
**Pluto Day—the dwarf planet (18<sup>th</sup>)**  
**President's Day (third Monday)**  
**The Daytona 500**  
**The Academy Awards**  
**Leap Year (29<sup>th</sup>—Celebrated every four years)**

Study the sentence and then answer its question. Write the letters of the correct answers in the blanks to the left.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. *The football seemed to fly across our big screen TV for more than a mile before a player snatched it from the air.*  
This sentence contains an example of  
(A) a simile,  
(B) a metaphor,  
(C) a hyperbole,  
(D) alliteration.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. *The wad of bubblegum stuck to the bottom of my shoe, attached itself to the kitchen tile, and then stretched out like a pink spider web when I took a step.*  
The *simile* in this sentence compares  
(A) a shoe to a kitchen tile,  
(B) a wad of bubblegum to a shoe,  
(C) a shoe to a spider web,  
(D) strings of bubble gum to a spider web.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. *Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.* George Washington Carver.  
Mr. Carver's quote has an example of  
(A) a simile,  
(B) a metaphor,  
(C) alliteration,  
(D) a hyperbole.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. *On Groundhog Day, the sun played hide and seek, slipping behind clouds and popping back out, teasing the spectators below.*  
In this sentence, what object is *personified* and given human characteristics?  
(A) a groundhog  
(B) the sun  
(C) clouds  
(D) spectators