

January

in Figurative Language

by Margaret Whisnant



Carl was as stuck for an idea as a tongue on a frozen pole.

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Featured Figures of Speech

Simile: A simile compares two things using the words *like* or *as*.

Dad is as grouchy as a sleepy bear before he has his morning coffee.
My sister jumped around in the snow like a happy grasshopper.

Metaphor: A metaphor says that a person or thing is something other than what it really is. Metaphors make comparisons or suggest similarities between two unlike things without using the words *like* or *as*.

Dad is a bear before his morning coffee.
His bedroom floor is a sea of dirty laundry and abandoned toys.

Personification: Personification is a figure of speech in which nonhuman objects, organisms, or events are given human characteristics.

A bicycle tire peered at us from beneath the rubble.
Blades of tall grass waved to each other in the breeze.
A blizzard howled through the streets for hours.

Hyperbole: A hyperbole uses exaggeration or overstatement for emphasis.

There must be a million cars parked at the mall.
I answered the phone about a thousand times today.

Idiom: An idiom is a group of two or more words that mean something quite different from their individual, literal (real) definitions.

That noise is driving me up the wall. (The noise is irritating.)
You're skating on thin ice. (What you are doing could get you into trouble.)



JANUARY

in Figurative Language

January is a busy month. It ushers in the New Year along with some of the Northern Hemisphere's most eventful wintry weather. It brings parades, the Rose Bowl Game, and National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day (January 3).



On the third Monday, we celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Among the distinguished designations for January are National Soup Month, Bath Safety Month, National Get Organized Month, and National Skating Month.

Other notable days include:

- Drinking Straw Day (January 3)
- Elvis Presley's birthday (January 8)
- National Clean Off Your Desk Day (January 10)
- Rubber Duckie Day (January 13)
- Dress Up Your Pet Day (January 14)
- Inauguration Day (January 20)
- National Pie Day (January 23)
- National Puzzle Day (January 29)
- Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day (January 31)

With so many extraordinary attributes, it's only fitting that January also be celebrated in figurative language. All of the following *italicized* sentences and quotes are connected to January weather, celebrations, or events. Each item contains a figure of speech with an accompanying question. Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank to the left.

- _____ 1. *Colin's drinking straw bent like a tiny elbow, causing the last of the orange juice to gurgle as it slipped past.*
The comparison of Collin's drinking straw to an elbow is an example of
(A) a simile,
(B) a metaphor,
(C) a hyperbole,
(D) an idiom.
- _____ 2. *Arable's desk is covered with about a million old papers and magazines.*
The figure of speech in the above sentence is
(A) a simile,
(B) a hyperbole,
(C) personification,
(D) an idiom.
- _____ 3. *Falling snow slowly wrapped the whole neighborhood in a blanket of white.*
This sentence contains an example of
(A) a simile,
(B) a metaphor,
(C) an idiom,
(D) personification.

JANUARY

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Part Two

The January Figurative Language celebration continues with Part Two! Here is a reminder list of January events:



Wintry weather
New Year's Day
Parades
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (third Monday)
National Soup Month
Bath Safety Month
National Get Organized Month
National Skating Month.
Chocolate Covered Cherry Day (January 3)
Drinking Straw Day (January 3)
Elvis Presley's birthday (January 8)
National Clean Off Your Desk Day (January 10)
Rubber Duckie Day (January 13)
Dress Up Your Pet Day (January 14)
Inauguration Day (January 20)
National Pie Day (January 23)
National Puzzle Day (January 29)
Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day (January 31)

All of the following *italicized* sentences and quotes, based on the January events listed above, contain figures of speech. Study the question after each one and write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank provided.

- _____ 1. *Can we soup up this computer so it will run a little faster?*
The figure of speech illustrated in this sentence is
(A) a simile,
(B) a metaphor,
(C) a hyperbole,
(D) an idiom.
- _____ 2. *The browns and whites and reds in Jaden's new room look like the inside of a chocolate covered cherry.*
What figure of speech creates an image of Jaden's new room?
(A) a simile
(B) a metaphor
(C) a hyperbole
(D) personification
- _____ 3. *I am _____ with homework this afternoon.*
Which of the following is an *idiom* that correctly completes the sentence?
(A) having to deal
(B) snowed under
(C) not helping
(D) completely finished