

Celebrating
March
in
Figurative Language

by Margaret Whisnant



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March Celebrations and Events

Women's History Month (US)
Music in Our Schools Month
Adopt a Guinea Pig Month
Berries and Cherries Month

National Cheerleading Week (1-7)
National Cleaning Week (last week)

The Vernal Equinox (from March 19th-21st)
First day of Spring in Northern Hemisphere
First day of Autumn in Southern Hemisphere

National Reading Day (US) March 2nd
Save a Spider Day (March 14th)
National Potato Chip Day (March 14th)
St. Urho's Day (March 16th) Finish Saint of the Grasshopper
St. Patrick's Day (March 17)
Weed Appreciation Day (March 28th)



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Featured Figures of Speech

Simile

A comparison of two unlike things using the words “like” or “as.”

Susan B. Anthony buzzed around the country like a bee lecturing for women’s right to vote and own property.

Metaphor

A comparison of two unlike things implying that something is a dissimilar object or thing. The words “like” or “as” are not used

A friend’s eye is a good mirror. (Irish saying)

Personification

The figure of speech that gives human characteristics or actions to non-living things.

A row of dancing pom-poms inspired the fans to cheer their faltering team.

Hyperbole

An exaggeration that cannot possibly be true.

Just when the whole world was watching, the cheerleader’s pyramid toppled and fell.

Alliteration

The repetition of an initial consonant sound or of the same sound within several words.

A gigantic, glistening green grasshopper landed on my toe.

Onomatopoeia

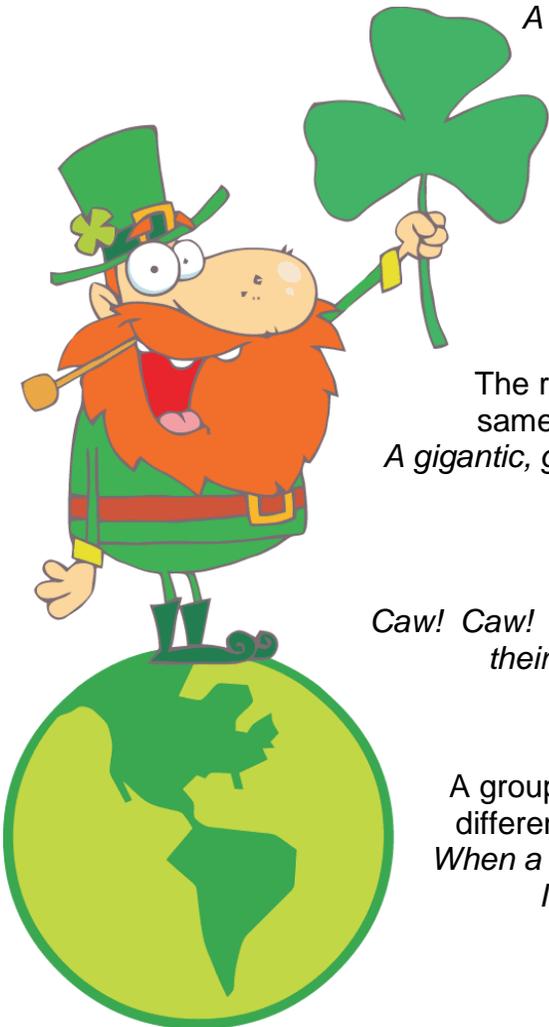
Words that represent sounds.

Caw! Caw! A small flock of crows squeaked and squawked their way across the newly planted corn field.

Idiom

A group of two or more words that mean something quite different from the individual, literal (real) definitions.

When a giant bug crawled out of my basket of strawberries, I dropped the whole thing like a hot potato





March

in

Figurative Language Part One

Featured Celebrations and Special Days

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(Said to have driven grasshoppers from ancient Finland)
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Weed Appreciation Day (March 28th)

In the Northern Hemisphere, March is said to come in like a lion and leave like a lamb, and rightfully so. The month typically begins with waves of roaring winds only to end with the first batch of gentle spring days. In the Southern Hemisphere, it drops the curtain on summer and ushers in autumn. On the 17th, people the world over celebrate Patrick's Day with leprechauns and shamrocks, parades, parties, and the wearing of the green. Our third month also brings attention to famous women, school music, and guinea pigs.

March is full of personality! A sampling of its whacky traits along with events from its serious side provides the perfect subject matter for the study of figurative language.

The following sentences and quotations are based on one of the featured March events listed above. Each one illustrates the use a figure of speech--a *simile*, a *metaphor*, *personification*, a *hyperbole*, *alliteration*, *onomatopoeia*, or an *idiom*. Read each item and its accompanying question, put on your thinking cap—the green one-- and then write the letter of the correct answer in the blank to the left.

_____ 1. *When the whole family had the flu, Aunt Valarie was Florence Nightingale moving from patient to patient.*

This description of Aunt Valarie's kind attention is an example of a

- (A) simile,
- (B) metaphor,
- (C) personification,
- (D) an idiom.

_____ 2. *The noises coming from Belinda's violin were as screechy as a rusty hinge on an old barn door.*

Belinda's poor musical skills are described with

- (A) a simile,
- (B) alliteration,
- (C) a hyperbole,
- (D) onomatopoeia.

_____ 3. *I'm going to stop beating around the bush and go ahead and ask my parents to let me get a guinea pig.*

Which phrase from the sentence is an example of an *idiom*?

- (A) going to stop
- (B) beating around the bush
- (C) go ahead and ask
- (D) to let me get



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March

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Figurative Language

Part Two

Celebrations and Special Days

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Our March parade of celebrations and special days continues with 25 more sentences. You'll find them populated with a host of characters including a grumpy Guinea pig, an agile principal, runaway fruit, and a grasshopper. Study each one along with its companion question, and then write the letter of the correct answer in the blank to the left.

- _____ 1. *Right in the middle of Frankie's solo, a loud "Achoo!" thundered from the audience.*
The figure of speech that interrupted Frankie's solo is
(A) a hyperbole,
(B) a metaphor,
(C) an onomatopoeia,
(D) alliteration.
- _____ 2. *I can't find the Sally Ride report that I saved on my dad's computer, and it's due today. My goose is cooked!*
Which of the following words from the sentence is the *idiom*?
(A) saved my report on Sally Ride
(B) on my dad's computer
(C) It's due today.
(D) My goose is cooked!
- _____ 3. *Irritating Archibald the guinea pig when he is eating is about as smart as yanking a lion's tail when he is napping.*
The above *simile* implies that Archibald
(A) likes to play rough,
(B) gets vicious if you interrupt his eating,
(C) looks like a miniature lion,
(D) gets mad easily.
- _____ 4. *The cherry jumped off my Sundae and dropped into my shirt pocket _____.*
Which of the following is a *simile* that would correctly complete the sentence?
(A) like a well aimed billiard ball
(B) leaving a trail of ice cream behind
(C) and disappeared in a flash
(D) which embarrassed my mother, big time

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