

October

in Figurative Language

by Margaret Whisnant



Copyright © 2011 Margaret Whisnant

All rights reserved by author.
Permission to copy for classroom use only.
Electronic distribution limited to classroom use only.

Images © Graphics Factory.com

October

in Figurative Language

Featured Figures of Speech

Simile: A simile compares two things using the words *like* or *as*.
Alice started laughing like the Wicked Witch of the North.
My sister jumped around in the pile of leaves 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 monster before his morning coffee.
Our backyard is an orange sea of left-over pumpkin carvings.

Personification: Personification is a figure of speech in which nonhuman objects, organisms, or events are given human characteristics.
A flickering lamp peered at us from behind the curtain.
Blades of tall grass waved to each other in the breeze.
A cold wind lifted a pile of fallen leaves and pushed it along the street.

Hyperbole: A hyperbole uses exaggeration or overstatement for emphasis.
There must be a million cars parked at the mall.
McKenzie has a huge trick-or-treat bag because she intends to collect tons of candy.

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.)
Only minutes after the game ended, it started raining cats and dogs.
(There was a downpour)



October

in Figurative Language

Part One

In the Northern Hemisphere, October brings cooler weather, neon-colored foliage, serious football competition, creating the perfect Halloween costume, and the anticipation of a fun evening of trick-or-treating. This kaleidoscopic month is tailor-made for figurative language.



All of the following sentences have an October connection. Each one is constructed around a *simile*, a *metaphor*, *personification*, a *hyperbole*, or an *idiom*. Read the sentence and then study its companion question. Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank to the left.

- _____ 1. *Jason was a hungry goblin wolfing down a handful of miniature candy bars.*
The figure of speech in this sentence is
(A) a simile,
(B) a metaphor,
(C) a hyperbole,
(D) an idiom.
- _____ 2. *Tattered curtains hanging in the windows waved to groups of trick-or-treaters who scurried by.*
What figure of speech is present in this sentence?
(A) a simile
(B) a metaphor
(C) personification
(D) a hyperbole
- _____ 3. *The sudden chill in the air took my breath away.*
The *idiom* in this sentence is
(A) sudden chill,
(B) in the air,
(C) the air took,
(D) took my breath away.
- _____ 4. *Shadows from the tree's limbs reached out like an octopus and grabbed at the sidewalk.*
The simile in this sentence compares
(A) shadows to octopus arms,
(B) a tree to shadows,
(C) a tree to an octopus,
(D) an octopus to a sidewalk.
- _____ 5. *One corner of our back yard is buried under a million leaves that have blown into a drift against the fence.*
This sentence illustrates the use of
(A) a simile,
(B) a metaphor,
(C) an idiom,
(D) a hyperbole.

October

in Figurative Language

Part Two

For your October entertainment, here is a set of sentences related to fall weather, football, and, of course, that most famous October event, Halloween! All of them are sporting a figure of speech—a *simile*, a *metaphor*, a *hyperbole*, *personification*, or an *idiom*.

Read each sentence and then answer its companion question by writing the letter of the correct response in the blank to the left.

- _____ 1. *The Halloween party was a three-ring circus of games and treats.*

The figure of speech illustrated in this sentence is

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



- _____ 2. *My pillow felt like a cloud after a long afternoon of football practice.*

The *simile* above compares

- (A) a cloud to an afternoon,
- (B) a football to a pillow,
- (C) a pillow to a cloud,
- (D) a football to a cloud.

- _____ 3. *Our request for a school-wide Outdoor Classroom Day doesn't stand a ghost of a chance.*

Which phrase from the sentence is an *idiom*?

- (A) Our request for
- (B) a school-wide
- (C) Outdoor Classroom Day
- (D) a ghost of a chance

- _____ 4. *Underneath my feet, the dry leaves sounded like crackling fire.*

This sentence contains

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

- _____ 5. *Mist made the sidewalks glisten like glass under the streetlights.*

Which of the following sentences changes the above *simile* to a *metaphor*?

- (A) Mist made the sidewalks glisten under the streetlights.
- (B) In the mist, the sidewalks were glass glistening under the streetlights.
- (C) The sidewalks glistened like misty glass.
- (D) Under the streetlights, the sidewalks looked misty.

- _____ 6. *Apples bobbed around in the tub like surfers with nowhere to go.*

What two things are being compared in this simile?

- (A) apples and a tub
- (B) a tub and surfers
- (C) surfers and bobbing
- (D) bobbing apples and surfers