

# October

## in Figurative Language

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### ***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)*



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### 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.

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### 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

