

5 Figurative language: transfer and its context – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English

Write it 3 times (English)

metaphor

extended

metaphor

Personification

Recall

- You have used a comparison that made someone laugh at the wrong moment.
- You know 'like a machine' can be praise or an insult.
- You have seen the same image mean different things in different places.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 What a comparison focuses on

A **metaphor** focuses on the particular traits of the things compared, not on the objects themselves. Naming the trait transferred is the analysis; naming the pair is not.

Worked example. Comparing a city to a furnace transfers heat and consumption, not shape or colour.

■ 2 Extended metaphor

An **extended metaphor** persists through part or all of a text and is expanded with further details, similes and images. As it develops, the trait transferred can change.

Worked example. A voyage metaphor may begin as adventure and end as exile.

■ 3 Personification

Personification assigns a human trait to a nonhuman thing, thereby characterising it. The analysis is in which trait is chosen.

Worked example. An angry sea threatens; an indifferent sea is worse, because nothing can be appealed to.

Watch out: Context governs a metaphor. The same comparison transfers different qualities in different passages, so a fixed meaning imported from elsewhere is usually wrong.

Practice

2.1 State what a metaphorical comparison focuses on. [2]

2.2 Define an extended metaphor. [2]

2.3 State how an extended metaphor is expanded. [2]

2.4 Define personification and state where the analysis lies. [2]

2.5 Explain why context governs what a metaphor transfers. [2]
