***The Book Thief*: Seeing What We Read**

When you read, whether it is a novel, short story, or poem, you have your own internal movie reel or video that turns the words on the page into images in your mind.

Authors use a variety of different writing techniques to bring their written words to life for the reader. Some of the literary techniques that Marcus Zusak employs most frequently in *The Book Thief* are simile, metaphor, and personification.

***Quick Reminder:***

***Simile****: comparing one thing to something else, using the words “like” or “as”*

***Metaphor****: comparing one thing to something else directly, without using “like” or “as”*

***Personification****: giving human qualities, abilities, and characteristics to nonhuman/inanimate objects, feelings or ideas*

**For this assignment, you must focus on pages 1-80 in *The Book Thief*** and select three quotes from the novel that utilize one or more of these literary elements. After you’ve selected each quote, you must then make your best attempt to create an illustration that creatively interprets the image that was created in your mind when you read that specific quote.

Format your quotes like this: “The sound of the accordion was, in fact, also the announcement of safety.” (p. 38)

Quote #1:

Page:

Circle One: Simile/Personification/Metaphor

Quote #2:

Page:

Circle One: Simile/Personification/Metaphor

Quote #3:

Page:

Circle One: Simile/Personification/Metaphor

Figurative Language
Figurative language is speech or writing that departs from literal meaning in order to achieve a special effect or meaning.

In the novel, The Book Thief by Markus Zusak, many different types of figurative language were used to help convey the story, such as similes, metaphors, personifications, epithets, dramatic irony, situational irony, and foreshadowing. Each form of figurative language brings something different to the novel.

Simile
A simile is a comparison between two unlike things, using the words *like* or *as*.

Metaphor
A metaphor is a comparison between two unlike things, not using the words *like* or *as*.

Personification
Personification is giving human characteristics to non-living objects

Epithet
An epithet is a word or phrase used in place of a person's name. An example of an epithet is illustrated in the following quotation. "Fṻhrer" (Zusak 521). In the novel, Adolf Hitler is referred to as the Fṻhrer in place of his name. Hitler was called a variety of names, but the Fṻhrer was among the most common.
﻿

Dramatic Irony
Dramatic irony is when the audience knows something that a character does not know.

Situational Irony
Situational irony is a situation or event that doesn't turn out the way you thought or the way it was planned.

Foreshadowing
Foreshadowing is the prediction of an event before it happens, through hints and clues.



Figurative Language: Understanding the Concept

You are using figurative language when your writing goes beyond the actual meanings of words so that the reader gains new insights into the objects or subjects in the work.

One of the best ways to really understand the concept of figurative language is to see it in action such as with these examples:

* All right, the sky misses the sun at night.
* The poorest man is the richest, and the rich are poor.
* Hear the mellow wedding bells. - Edgar Allen Poe
* Out of reach, I pull out with a screech.
* I move fast like a cheetah on the Serengeti.
* Her head was spinning from all the new information.
* The toast jumped out of the toaster.
* I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.
* The Sea lashed out in anger at the ships, unwilling to tolerate another battle.
* The Redcoats are coming!
* I’ve told you a million times to clean your room!

Types of Figurative Language

There are many types of figurative language. Some include the use of a specific type of word or word meaning such as:

* [Metaphor](http://www.yourdictionary.com/metaphor)
* [Simile](http://www.yourdictionary.com/simile)
* [Personification](http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-personification.html)
* [Hyperbole](http://www.yourdictionary.com/hyperbole)
* [Symbolism](http://www.yourdictionary.com/symbolism)

Metaphor

When you use a metaphor, you make a statement that doesn’t make sense literally, like “time is a thief.” It only makes sense when the similarities between the two things become apparent or someone understands the connection between the two words.

Examples include:

* The world is my oyster.
* You are a couch potato.
* Time is money.
* He has a heart of stone.
* America is a melting pot.
* You are my sunshine.

Simile

A simile compares two things like a metaphor; but, a simile uses the words “like” and “as.” Examples include:

* Busy as a bee.
* Clean as a whistle.
* Brave as a lion.
* He stood out like a sore thumb.
* It was as easy as shooting fish in a barrel.
* My mouth was as dry as a bone.
* It was as funny as a barrel of monkeys.
* They fought like cats and dogs.
* It was like watching grass grow.

Personification

Personification gives human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or ideas. This can really affect the way the reader imagines things. This type of figurative language is often used in children’s books, poetry, and fictional literature. Examples include:

* Opportunity knocked on the door.
* The sun greeted me this morning.
* The sky was full of dancing stars.
* The vines wove their fingers together to form a braid.
* The radio stopped singing and stared at me.
* The sun played hide and seek with the clouds.

Hyperbole

A hyperbole is an outrageous exaggeration that emphasizes a point, and can be ridiculous or funny. Hyperboles can be added to fiction to add color and depth to a character. Examples are:

* You snore louder than a freight train.
* It's a slow burg. I spent a couple of weeks there one day.
* She is so dumb, she thinks Taco Bell is a Mexican phone company.
* I had to walk 15 miles to school in the snow, uphill.
* You could have knocked me over with a feather.

Symbolism

Symbolism occurs when a word has meaning in itself, but is used to represent something entirely different.

Common examples in everyday life are:

* Using an image of the American flag to represent patriotism and a love for one’s country.
* Using an apple pie to represent a traditional American lifestyle.
* Using an apple to represent education.

Examples in literature include:

* All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances, And one man in his time plays many parts. - *As you Like It*, William Shakespeare
The “stage” here symbolizes the world and the “players” represent human beings.
* My love for Linton is like the foliage in the woods. Time will change it; I’m well aware, as winter changes the trees. My love for Heathcliff resembles the eternal rocks beneath a source of little visible delight, but necessary. - *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Bronte
Bronte uses imagery of the natural world to symbolize the wild nature and deep feelings of her characters.