Figurative Language Resources

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### Figurative Language Styles

**alliteration**
- Helps writers punch points home by repeating the same sound (usually a consonant) of the first or second letter in a series of words. It tends to catch the reader’s eye.
- **The professor praised his pupil’s flowery prose.**

**hyperbole**
- When a writer exaggerates something - typically in a humorous way.
- **My eyes widened at the sight of the mile-high sundae that were brought to our table.**

**metaphor**
- A comparison between two things. They don’t necessarily have to be alike, but they should make a link in the reader’s mind.
- **Nobody invites Edward to parties because he is a wet blanket.**

**personification**
- When something non-human is given human-like qualities.
- **The leaves danced in the wind on the cold October afternoon.**

**simile**
- A direct comparison between two things, using like or as.
- **Jamie runs as fast as the wind.**

**symbolism**
- When something that has one meaning is used to represent something entirely different. For example, using an image of the American flag to represent patriotism.
- **The boy proudly flew his flag on the 4th of July.**

**assonance**
- When you repeat a vowel sound in a phrase.
- **True, I do like Sue.**

**cliché**
- A phrase that is repeated so often, it’s nearly meaningless.
- **Try walking a mile in my shoes.**

**idiom**
- An expression used by a group of people with a meaning that can only be understood through common usage. (Many idioms are also considered clichés.)
- **I’m waiting for him to kick the bucket.**

**metonymy**
- A figure of speech where one word is replaced with a word that’s closely associated with it. For example, you might hear Washington used to refer to the U.S. government.
- **The political corruption in Washington is just unreal.**

**onomatopoieia**
- The name of an action imitates the sound it makes.
- **bzzzzzzzz**
- **The bees buzz angrily when their hive is disturbed.**

**synecdoche**
- A figure of speech using a word or words to represent a whole. For example, when you refer to credit cards as "plastic".
- Rather than using cash, she just paid with her plastic.