

Grade Level: 2-5

Subject: Language Arts, Standard 6: Applying Knowledge

Duration: One 40-minute class period

Activity: Use this lesson to explore an author's craft of figurative language.

Description: Students will discover, through example, the power of figurative language in writing.

Objectives: To identify and compose similes, metaphors and idioms.

Materials: Copy of *Because of Winn-Dixie*, student sheet

Procedure: Lead a mini-lesson on figurative language. Explain that figurative language creates a picture for the reader. Authors often use figurative language to provide humor, emphasis or detail in their writing. Provide the following examples from *Because of Winn-Dixie*:

- **Simile** – a comparison using the words like or as

Example: "...like a bug under a microscope." (p.28)

Challenge the students to find the similes on page 36 ("...like a furry bullet.") and page 38 ("...like she was smelling something real bad.").

- **Metaphor** – a direct comparison without the use of like or as

Example: "...he reminded me of a turtle hiding in its shell." (p.16)

Challenge the students to find the metaphor on page 95 ("...the ghosts of all the things I done wrong.").

- **Idiom** – a widely accepted expression that does not seem to make literal sense

Example: "...ears shot up..." (p.17)

Challenge the students to find the idiom on page 18 ("...head out of his shell.").

Distribute the student sheet.

Adaptations: For younger students, complete the student sheet as a class or in small groups. Choose only one aspect of figurative language, such as similes, upon which to focus. Solicit oral responses for examples of figurative language.

Assessment: Ask students to find examples of figurative language in other literature. Read examples of figurative language aloud and have students classify them as simile, metaphor, or idiom on a piece of paper.

Note: Answers to student sheet

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. simile | 2. metaphor | 3. idiom | 4. idiom | 5. simile | 6. simile |
| 7. simile | 8. idiom | 9. simile | 10. metaphor | 11. idiom | 12. simile |
| 13. idiom | 14. simile | | | | |

Figuratively Speaking

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

In the book *Because of Winn-Dixie*, the author Kate DiCamillo creates many pictures for readers to imagine. She uses a form of writing many good writers use called figurative language. There are different types of figurative language. We will explore three types today!

Simile – a comparison using the words like or as

Example: “...like a bug under a microscope.” (p.28)

Metaphor – a direct comparison without using the words like or as

Example: “...he reminded me of a turtle hiding in its shell.”(p.16)

Idiom – an expression that might not seem to make sense if you just read the words, but you have probably heard it used!

Example: “...ears shot up...” (p.17)

Identify the following passages from *Because of Winn-Dixie*. Write if it is an example of a simile, metaphor, or idiom. Highlight the phrase within the sentence that is the simile, metaphor, or idiom.

1. p.90 “...I felt like a soldier who had been fighting a hard battle.” _____
2. p.95 “The ghosts of all the things I done wrong.” _____
3. p.32 “Getting left behind probably made his heart feel empty.” _____
4. p.47 “I was a miss-smarty-pants with my library full of books.” _____
5. p.99 “She would just stop and start to shake like a little leaf.” _____
6. p.132 “Thinking about her was the same as the hole you keep feeling after you lose a tooth.” _____
7. p.145 “Even when she was standing still, she kind of swayed, like she was standing on a boat.” _____
8. p.68 “I could feel her listening with all her heart, and it felt good.” _____
9. p.98 “Some of his fur was pretty loose and blew right off of him like a dandelion puff.” _____
10. p.134 “I believe, sometimes, that the whole world has an aching heart.” _____
11. p.98 “I worried about him hogging the fan, and I worried about the fan blowing him bald...” _____
12. p.74 “He just stood there, and Winn-Dixie came barreling right toward him like he was a bowling ball and the preacher was the only pin left standing...” _____
13. p.47 “...I was sitting in my library with all the doors and windows open and my nose stuck in a book, when a shadow crossed the desk.” _____
14. p.182 “...and the flavor of the Littmus Lozenge opened in my mouth like a flower blooming, all sweet and sad.” _____

The next time you write a story, include similes, metaphors, and idioms. Your readers will love it!