

9 Types of Figurative Language + Examples

allusion

makes a comparison to another work or character

He's the Romeo to my Juliet.

hyperbole

exaggerates to make a point

He was dying of boredom.

idiom

figure of speech that only makes sense when taken figuratively, not literally

I'm ready to hit the sack.

metaphor

compares two unlike things that share an attribute by saying one is the other

My house is a three-ring circus.

metonymy

uses one word to represent a common link to a larger concept

Can you give me a hand?

personification

gives human-like attributes to a non-human thing

The leaves danced in the wind.

simile

compares two unlike things with *like* or *as*

You're as pretty as a picture.

symbolism

uses an object to represent something else

The boy waved his flag as the soldiers returned home.

synecdoche

uses one part of a noun to describe the whole noun

I've got four mouths to feed at home.