

The following are the only examples of figurative language that will be assessed:

- 1. Simile—A simile compares two unlike things by using the words “like” or “as.”**
- 2. Metaphor—A metaphor compares two unlike objects.**
- 3. Hyperbole—extreme exaggeration**
- 4. Personification—Personification gives human qualities to something that is not human.**
- 5. Apostrophe—A form of personification in which someone absent or dead or something nonhuman is directly spoken to as if they are alive, present, and can answer back**
- 6. Alliteration—Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of nearby words.**
- 7. Onomatopoeia---Onomatopoeia is when words are pronounced like they sound.**
- 8. Refrain—A refrain is the repetition of a word, line, or phrase for effect.**
- 9. Internal Rhyme—The repetition of sounds in two or more words or phrases within the line of a poem**
- 10. Anaphora—The repetition of the same word or group of words at the beginning of a series of clauses**
- 11. End Rhyme—The repetition of sounds in two or more words or phrases at the end of two or more lines in a poem**

Answer Key

Study Guide
Figurative Language Assessment

Dreams
by
Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

1. Which line from the poem is an example of end rhyme?
- a. lines 2 and 3
 - b. line 4 and 5
 - c. lines 6 and 8
 - d. lines 1 and 7

Read the following excerpt from the poem.

For when dreams go
Life is a barren¹ field
Frozen with snow.

2. The imagery that the poet uses in the above lines appeal to which of the following senses?
- a. sight
 - b. touch
 - c. smell
 - d. taste
3. Which line from the poem is an example of personification?
- a. for if dreams die
 - b. frozen in snow
 - c. hold fast to dreams
 - d. life is a barren field

Why did you choose this answer? _____

¹ Barren—unproductive, lonely, isolated, miserable

Read the following and answer question 4.

Life is a broken-winged bird / that cannot fly

4. What is one point that the author illustrates by using the above metaphor?

- a. That things in life can break parts of our body just like a bird's wing can be broken
- b. That circumstances can keep us from reaching our full potential just like an injured bird also cannot do what it was created to do
- c. That humans have a lot in common with animals, such as certain types of injuries and/or illnesses
- d. That life and birds can cause a lot of damage to things in the environment

Read the following poem. Answer questions 5-7.

Free Flight

A blur shoots across the sky,
free from the earth which holds no tie.
Shimmering gold coasts along a breeze, dancing fluttering, soaring free.
Wings like sails fill and spread
with cool air, sparrows, songbirds, small creatures beware.

Black talons like scythes² with some extra curl,
diving, searching, wings unfurl.
Enjoying the ride,
sharp black eyes scanning while feathers glide.

Red gold, gray, x-raying the ground below, a blazing
comet that shoots past a crow.
A whistling cry cuts through the sky,
like an icy blade on the fly.
Smooth and streamlined, hurtling high,
sharp-curved beak,
A kestrel³ am I.

² Scythe-- a tool used for cutting crops such as grass or wheat

³ Kestrel—a small falcon (bird)

Read the following excerpt and answer question 5.

Smooth and streamlined, hurtling high,
sharp-curved beak,
A kestrel am I

5. In the above line, how does the poet use figurative language to enhance the poem?

- a. The poet uses figurative language to describe the narrator.
- b. The poet uses figurative language to describe the setting.
- c. The poet uses figurative language to describe the narrator's conflict.
- d. The poet uses figurative language to describe the mood of the poem.

6. What pairs of figurative language can be found in stanza 3 of "Free Flight"?

- a. simile and refrain
- b. simile and onomatopoeia
- c. metaphor and alliteration
- d. apostrophe and metaphor

Why did you choose this answer? _____

Read the following line and answer question 7.

Black talons like scythes⁴ with some extra curl,
diving, searching, wings unfurl.

7. Which of the following accurately models the figurative language found in the above lines?

- a. Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December,
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.
- b. Shhh, you can only feel the earth's heartbeat when you are still and quiet.
- c. The fog came on little cat feet.
- d. Suddenly Lennie appeared out of the brush, and he came as silently as a creeping bear moves.

⁴ Scythe-- a tool used for cutting crops such as grass or wheat

Answer Key

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Read the selections and answer questions 8 and 9.

Selection #1—“That Casey. He might have been a preacher but he seen things clear. He was like a lantern. He helped me see things clear.”

Selection #2—“The dust was as thick as smoke in a burning kitchen. We choked on it and wondered how the bare field in which we stood could feel as if it were a fire.”

8. How does the author’s use of figurative language enhance the writing?

- a. In both selections, the figurative language affects the reader’s understanding of the characters.
- b. In one selection, figurative language is used to describe the setting but not in the other selection.
- c. In both selections, the figurative language affects the reader’s mood toward Casey.
- d. In one selection, figurative language is used to improve the selection but is not used in the other selection.

9. Why did you choose this answer? Cite examples from the selection to justify your response.
