Writing Basics → Using Figurative Language
Level: Elementary School

When writers use literal language, every word follows its dictionary meaning. When writers use figurative language, they play with the meaning of the words, suggesting a picture or an idea. For example, “Her hair was a ribbon of silk on her shoulder” might literally mean her hair was smooth and shiny.

Read the examples of figurative language below. Then, read the choices below the underlined words. Circle the words that correctly replace the figurative words.

1. The tulip bulbs were sleeping, tucked under their big, white comforter.
   
   sleeping → (blooming OR dormant)
   
   big, white comforter → (layer of snow OR the earth)

2. The camera loves her.
   
   (She loves to take pictures. OR She looks great in pictures.)

3. She thought the homework assignment was a piece of cake.
   
   (easy OR difficult)

4. She thought the girl was her friend, but today she was cold as ice.
   
   (very unfriendly OR feeling chilled)

5. My car is cranky on cold mornings and doesn’t want to start.
   
   (new OR unreliable)

6. They flew faster than the wind.
   
   (quite fast OR very fast)

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