

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)

Time4Writing provides these writing materials to teachers and parents at no cost. More presentations, handouts, interactive online exercises, and video lessons are freely available at Time4Writing.com. Consider linking to these resources from your school, teacher or homeschool educational site. We simply ask that these materials maintain the visibility of the Time4Writing logo and copyright information. They can be copied and used for educational purposes, and are not for resale. For questions or feedback, email info@time4writing.com.