

Where the Red Fern Grows

LITERARY ELEMENTS WORKSHEET

Figures of Speech

Figures of speech are words or phrases that describe one thing in terms of another. They are not meant to be understood literally.

- A **simile** is a figure of speech that compares two unlike things, using words such as *like* or *as* to make the comparison.
- A **metaphor** also compares two unlike things, but it does not use words such as *like* or *as* to make the comparison.
- **Personification** gives human characteristics to inanimate objects, forces, or animals.

For items 1–7, identify each item as a simile, a metaphor, or personification. (One item contains two kinds of figures of speech.) For 8–10, create some figures of speech of your own by completing the sentences.

1. The silver cup “sparkled like a white star in the heavens.”
2. “The wind itself seemed to be angry at the big tree’s stubborn resistance.”
3. “When the girls giggled, my blood boiled.”
4. “The boys and girls were about my age and were as thick as files around a sorghum mill.”
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5. “Old Dan... sat down and with his deep voice told the river bottoms that he had been hurt.”
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6. “Like a king in his own domain, [the sycamore] towered far above the smaller trees.”
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7. The two hounds were “nothing but white ice from the tips of their noses to the ends of their tails.”
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8. SIMILE: The howling dogs were as noisy as
9. METAPHOR: The storm was a(n)
10. PERSONIFICATION: The tree