

Name: _____

Hyperbole and Understatement Worksheet 1

Directions: Read each example. Determine whether each is an instance of hyperbole or understatement. Choose your response and explain what is being understated or hyperbolized.

Example: The moon was high, all were sleeping, and the whole world was at peace.

This is an example of... Hyperbole / **Understatement**

I believe this because...

The speaker is exaggerating how peaceful things were. Some people had to be awake at that time. Some people in the world had to have been fighting and not at peace.

1. The rain pours, pours endlessly.

This is an example of... **Hyperbole** / **Understatement**

I believe this because...

2. She gave birth to me, raised me and provided for me from an infant... Maybe I owe her one.

This is an example of... **Hyperbole** / **Understatement**

I believe this because...

3. It wasn't too neighborly when he poisoned my poodle.

This is an example of... **Hyperbole** / **Understatement**

I believe this because...

4. He was tired of life and too tired to die.

This is an example of... **Hyperbole** / **Understatement**

I believe this because...

Figurative Language Poem 8

The Black Land

By Joseph Warren Beach

I will plough the land,
Turning up the black soil.
I will ride upon this heaving surface
As a boat rides upon the water.
Even as a boat
Cleaving the water with an eager keel,
I have run a furrow¹
Straight across the ridges.



I will sow down this field,
Scattering gems.
With both hands will I scatter
Quivering emeralds out of a bottomless pouch.

As I tread the loam²
My feet sink deep.
The black earth embraces my ankles
And clings to my bent knees.

I sing as I go
Scattering emeralds.
The wind sings upon my lips,
And pearls stream off my neck and forehead.
I am bathed in a sweat of pearls.

Eyes straight forward
Rest on a brightening ultimate slope.

1. A long narrow trench made in the ground by a plow,
2. Soil with equal amounts of sand, silt, and clay.

Review Questions

Directions: Respond to these questions to the best of your ability. Answer the questions completely. If you need more space, use the back or a separate sheet.

1. Identify one example of **simile**: explain which two things are being compared.
2. Identify two examples of **metaphor**: explain which two things are being compared in each metaphor.
3. Identify two examples of **personification**: explain what is being personified and how.
4. Identify one example of **hyperbole**: explain what is being exaggerated.
5. What is the subject of this poem? What is this poem about? Explain your response.
6. What is the **tone** of this poem? How does the speaker treat the subject of the poem? Refer to text.
7. What is the **mood** of this poem? How does this poem make you feel? Refer to text in your response.

Inferences Worksheet 8

Directions: Read each passage and then respond to the questions. Each question will ask you to make a logical inference based on textual details. **Explain your answer by referencing the text.**

Mr. Johnson looked up at the sky. It was clear as far as the eye could see, except for the cruel sun. The insatiable sun drained the land of all moisture. He cursed the sun. Mr. Johnson ran his fingers through one of the rows of dirt and grabbed a handful. It was bone dry, almost powdery. He let the dirt sift through his fingers and it turned to dust in the wind. Mr. Johnson put his hands on his hips and surveyed the field. It was well seeded, that he knew. He had seeded it himself, yet nothing sprang from the dirt. "Well, there's only one thing left to do," he said to himself. Mr. Johnson headed to church.

1. What does Mr. Johnson do for a living? _____

How do you know this?

2. Why is Mr. Johnson cursing the sun? _____

How do you know this?

3. Why does Mr. Johnson go to church at the end of the passage? _____

How do you know this?

Warren pushed the back door open with his elbow. He was dragging a heavy black plastic sack behind him. *Thud, thud, thud*. The bag thumped each stair Warren descended. *Thud, thud, rip, drip, drip*. The bag had gotten caught on a nail and a foul, odorous juice poured out, splashing Warren's leg. "Ew... gross!" Warren shouted as he adjusted the bag. He walked out to the alley and deposited the bag in a large plastic container, closing the lid behind him as he left, still muttering about his pants.

4. What is Warren doing? _____

How do you know this?

5. Why does Warren get so angry when the bag spills on his leg? _____

How do you know this?

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Characterization Worksheet 1

Directions: Read a short description of an event. Identify a character trait that is revealed by each action. Explain your answer.

1. Jake is Cassie's older brother. One day they are walking home from school when a cold front rolls in and the temperature drops 20 degrees. Jake is dressed more appropriately for the weather than Cassie. He takes off his hooded sweatshirt and offers it to her. She gratefully accepts. Jake is now colder, but he is happier.

What character trait does Jake demonstrate? _____

Explain your answer by referencing the text.

2. Craig is a football player training over the summer for next season. The coach demands that all players come in at 6:00 AM and lift weights until 8:00 AM, when practice begins. Craig gets there at 5:00 AM to begin his training.

What character trait does Craig demonstrate? _____

Explain your answer by referencing the text.

3. Anna volunteered to help Kylie clean her house. When Anna washed the mirrors, Kylie asked her if she used paper towels instead of newspapers. When Anna admitted that she had, Kylie asked her to redo them. Then, while Anna was sweeping, Kylie corrected her on her technique. "Don't just push the dirt around, Anna. SWEEP it," Kylie told Anna.

What character trait does Kylie demonstrate? _____

Explain your answer by referencing the text.

4. Corey came back from the bathroom and noticed that her rainbow pencil was missing. She looked around the room and saw that Beth was using a rainbow pencil. Corey started crying uncontrollably and ran out of the room.

What character trait does Corey demonstrate? _____

Explain your answer by referencing the text.

5. Kelvin found a wallet on the ground. He opened up the wallet and saw an old woman's ID card. Kelvin took the ID out of the wallet, walked to the woman's house, and returned the wallet to her.

What character trait does Kelvin demonstrate? _____

Explain your answer by referencing the text.

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Setting Worksheet 1

Directions: Read each passage and look for clues that reveal the setting. Then explain your answer. Remember the setting is the time and place that a story happens.

Alex shut the lid to his laptop with a loud clap. Some of the people sitting at the tables near him looked up from their books and gave him annoyed looks. Alex realized that he had disturbed them and held up his hand apologetically. The librarian turned toward him and shushed him loudly, perhaps louder than the noise that he had made. Alex put the laptop in his bag and began walking toward the door. He held his head down low.

1. Where is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

2. When is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

Vance Powers grabbed the control stick. Up until now he had been a prisoner on this spaceship, but even the captain knew that Vance was the only one who could navigate through an asteroid belt. "Quick! Take these laser cuffs off!" The captain and the guard looked at one another hesitantly. *Boom!* The ship skidded off a large asteroid. "Now! Take the cuffs off! There's no time!" Vance shouted at the men. The captain gave the guard a slight nod. The guard waved the magnetic key over the laser cuffs on Vance's wrists. The cuffs powered down and fell off of Vance's wrists. Suddenly Vance had full control of his arms again. Vance tested the movement of his arms by disarming the guard and slapping the laser cuffs on him in one swift motion. Vance Powers was back.

3. Where is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

4. When is this story taking place? _____

How do you know?

Sir Anders frowned at his squire, Toby. Toby looked back worriedly. He was eager to please Sir Anders but he didn't know how. "Well, Toby, do you want me to put the saddle on myself?" A bolt of realization struck Toby. He grabbed a saddle of the wall and began apologizing, "Why of course not, Sir Anders. What was I thinking?" Toby awkwardly tried to get the saddle on Sir Ander's white stallion. "Let me just grabbed the belt here and uh... Ah!" Toby was muttering to himself when Sir Ander's horse turned suddenly and knocked him into a pile of hay. Sir Anders could not help but to crack a slight smile at this scene. As Toby brushed off the hay, Sir Anders consoled him, "He knows that you're scared, Toby. Grab the bridle off of the wall, help me remove my armor, and I'll show you how it's done."

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Context Clues 1.7

Directions: read each sentence and determine the meaning of the word using cross sentence clues or your prior knowledge. Then, explain what clues in the sentence helped you determine the word meaning.

1. **faint:** I thought that I heard a **faint** scratching noise, but I figured that it might just be in my head.

Definition: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

2. **alternate:** Even though it was a one-player game, the boys figured that they each could play if they **alternated**.

Definition: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

3. **brisk:** Jamie had a hard time keeping up with her mom, who was walking at a very **brisk** pace.

Definition: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

4. **vague:** She does not communicate with me so I only have a **vague** idea as to how I can help.

Definition: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

5. **delighted:** The little boy was **delighted** when he saw the monkey with the little helmet leading the parade on a motorcycle.

Definition: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

6. **homely:** Mr. Pumblehead was a **homely** man, but what he lacked in looks was compensated by his winning personality.

Definition: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

“Two Leaves” from *Bambi, A Life in the Woods*

By Felix Salten

Directions: Read the short story. Answer the questions. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

The leaves were falling from the big oak tree at the edge of the meadow. They were falling from all the trees. One of the branches of the oak was much higher up than the others and it stretched a long way out over the meadow. At its tip there sat two leaves together.

“Things ain’t like they they used to be,” said one of the leaves.

“They ain’t,” the other answered. “There were so many of us last night who ... we’re just about the only ones left here on this branch.”

“You never know who it’s goin to ‘appen to next,” said the first. “Even when it was nice and warm and the sunshine gave you some heat you get a storm or a cloudburst sometimes, and lots of us got torn off then, even them that were still young. You never know who it’s goin to ‘appen to next.”

“You don’t get much sunshine these days,” the second leaf sighed, “and even when the sun does shine there’s no strength to it. You’ve got to get your strength from somewhere else.”

“Do you think it’s true,” pondered the first, “is it true that other leaves will come along and take our place once we’ve gone, and then another lot, and then another lot ...?”

“Course it’s true,” whispered the second, “only, we can’t work out how ... it’s above what we can understand, that is.”

“It’d make you really sad, and all,” the first added.

They remained silent for a while. Then the first said quietly to himself, “What do you have to go away for, anyway?”

The second asked, “What ‘appens to us after we’ve fallen?”

“We sink down ...”

“And what is it, what’s down there?”

The first answered, “I don’t know. Some say one thing, others say something different ... nobody knows, really.”

The second asked, “D’you think you feel anything, d’you think you know anything about yourself when you’re down there?”

The first answered, “Who can say? None of them who’ve gone down there has ever come back to tell us.”

They were again silent for a while. Then the first leaf said tenderly to the other, “Don’t get yourself all upset about it, here, you’re shivering, look.”

“Oh don’t bother about that,” the second answered, “anything makes me shiver these days. You just don’t feel properly attached to where you are, do you.”

“We’d better stop talking about things like that,” said the first leaf.

“Yeah, we’d better leave it,” the other replied. “Only ... what we going to talk about now then?”

They became silent, but after a short time resumed the subject. “Who d’you think’s going to be the first of us to go down there, then...?”

“It won’t be for a while yet,” the first reassured him. “Let’s just think about how beautiful it used to be, how wonderfully beautiful! When the sun came out and burned us so hot it seemed we’d just swell up with all the good health it gave us. Remember? And then there was the dew, early in the morning ... and the lime trees, wonderful nights ...”

“The nights are horrible now,” whined the second. “They never seem to come to an end.”

“We can’t complain,” said the first leaf gently, “we’ve lived longer than so many others.”

“Have I changed much?” the second leaf asked, shyly but emphatically.

“Not a bit,” the first assured him. “What, ‘cause I’ve gone all yellow and ugly? No, it’s gone a bit different for me ...”

“Oh, give over,” the second contradicted.

“No, honest,” the first repeated emphatically. “It’s true, what I’m telling you. You’re as lovely as you as you were on the very first day. Might be a few yellow stripes here and there, but not so’s you’d notice, but they just make you look all the lovelier. Honest!”

“Oh, stop it now,” said the first, and became silent himself. He could not talk any more because he was upset.

Now they were both silent. The hours passed. A damp wind blew cold and hostile through the tree tops.

“Oh ... now ...” said the second leaf, “... I ...” His voice broke off. He was gently removed from his place and fluttered down to the earth. - Winter had come.

“Two Leaves” | Reading Quiz

1. Which best describes the **MOOD** of this story?
 - a. Cheerful
 - b. Bleak
 - c. Humorous
 - d. Optimistic
2. Which figurative language technique is used to bring the main characters of this story to life?
 - a. Simile
 - b. Onomatopoeia
 - c. Personification
 - d. Hyperbole
3. Which is **NOT** something that the leaves discuss?
 - a. How there used to be more leaves on the tree
 - b. How they don't know what happens after they fall
 - c. How the weather used to be brighter and warmer
 - d. How the squirrels walk on them inconsiderately
4. How have things changed for the leaves?
 - a. It is darker, colder, and they are more miserable.
 - b. It is hot now and the heat makes them uncomfortable.
 - c. It is brighter and they are enjoying the warmth.
 - d. The weather hasn't changed much so they're bored.
5. Which best characterizes the two leaves?
 - a. They still think that they have many warm days ahead of them so they are happy.
 - b. They know that they will fall soon and they are sad and concerned about it.
 - c. They think that it will be fun to get blown off the tree and they can't wait to go for the ride.
 - d. They are lonely at the top of the tree and excited to join their friends on the forest floor.
6. From which perspective is this story narrated?
 - a. First-person
 - b. Third-person objective
 - c. Third-person omniscient
 - d. Third-person limited
7. Why does the first leaf try to convince the second leaf that he hasn't changed much?
 - a. He is lying to try to make them both feel better.
 - b. He is trying to trick him from his spot.
 - c. He honestly can't tell that the second leaf has changed much.
 - d. He is trying to get him to share his acorn with him.
8. Which figurative language technique is used in the following?
"Might be a few yellow stripes here and there, but not so's you'd notice,"
 - a. Simile
 - b. Metaphor
 - c. Hyperbole
 - d. Understatement
9. Which statement best expresses the **THEME** of this story?
 - a. All good things must come to an end.
 - b. Keep your friends close and your enemies closer.
 - c. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
 - d. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
10. If the story were to continue, it is reasonable to **PREDICT** that which would **MOST LIKELY** occur next?
 - a. The last leaf would hang on all winter and survive till the spring.
 - b. The last leaf would make a new leaf friend on the tree that he never noticed.
 - c. The last leaf would fall off also and in short time.
 - d. The last leaf would suddenly regain his strength and color.

Extended Response: Answer the following question in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

What do the two leaves teach readers about companionship and having a friend?

Support your answer with evidence from the text and explain your argument completely.