

# English

## Identifying Literary Devices

### What do I do?

Identify the literary devices used in the following passages.

### Top Tips!

- Figurative language is known as a type of literary device that authors use to engage their audience.
- Imagine that you're in the scene and if there are characters mentioned, try to imagine what they're like. Immerse yourself in the text as much as possible in order to enjoy the text the most. If you're enjoying something - you're much more likely to be able to spot devices used!
- Lots of mnemonics are used to help you to remember - MAPSO and SHAMPOO are popular ones!

### What skills do I need to improve?



Doing lots of practice questions will help with becoming familiar with question types but what else can you do to improve in this area?

- Reading, reading, reading! Seeing literary devices being used in a text that you enjoy will help you to understand why and how authors use them in their work.
- Try to write your own literary devices and see if a friend/parent can identify it for you! Our helpsheet 'Creating Literary Devices' will be useful for this - take a look on our website.
- Create flashcards or even your own Literary Devices board game.

## Literary Devices

- S** Similes - A simile compares one thing to another, using 'like' or 'as', for effect.  
The water was as smooth as glass.
- H** Hyperbole - These are exaggerated statements that are not intended on being taken literally.  
"Hurry up, you've been soaking in the bath for years!" shouted Mum.
- A** Alliteration - The same letter or sound at the beginning of words that are close together.  
Delicately darting into the room, James quickly grabbed a towel.
- M** Metaphor - A metaphor describes something by saying that it is something else.  
"Look at your room!" sighed Dad, "it's a pigsty!"
- P** Personification - Personification gives human characteristics and abilities to an object or thing that is not human. The bubbles danced on the water's surface.
- O** Onomatopoeia - Words that are used to represent a sound.  
James jumped into the bath with a splash and popped all of the bubbles!
- O** Oxymoron - Oxymorons use terms that are opposite to each other.  
Mum let out a silent scream when she saw the state of the bathroom floor.

Identify the correct literary device used in the following sentences.

As Sameer looked up, he noticed the stars shining like diamonds in the sky. **metaphor simile alliteration**

Jacob lay the puzzle pieces in a random order before starting. **oxymoron hyperbole simile**

The trees waved their bony fingers in the breeze. **personification onomatopoeia**

The upcoming examination was a weight on Ishan's mind. **metaphor simile oxymoron**

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### Happy Birthday Milly

It was Saturday. Just another ordinary day for some but for Milly, it was going to be the best day of her life! Today she was turning fabulous four on a super Saturday and couldn't wait! Dad had been blowing up balloons all morning, his face was a red as a ripe tomato! He blew the balloons up, let go and watched them fly and dance, whizzing and screeching across the room - Milly thought this was seriously funny!

It was almost time for the party to begin and small crowd gathered in the garden. "Come on, Mum," called Milly, "it won't be long before millions of people will be here!" she chuckled. Mum was already on her way to the garden gate, letting more guests in. "Welcome to the circus!" she smiled and gave a wink to Milly, who couldn't wait to start her special party off with a bang!

Rewrite the passage above, colouring in, underlining or highlighting the following literary devices:  
**simile - red, hyperbole - blue, alliteration - green, metaphor - orange, personification - purple, onomatopoeia - pink, oxymoron - brown.**

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### Answers

Identify the correct literary device used in the following sentences.

As Sameer looked up, he noticed the stars shining like diamonds in the sky.

metaphor **simile** alliteration

Jacob lay the puzzle pieces in a random order before starting.

**oxymoron** hyperbole simile

The trees waved their bony fingers in the breeze.

**personification** onomatopoeia

The upcoming examination was a weight on Ishan's mind.

**metaphor** simile oxymoron

Rewrite the passage above, colouring in, underlining or highlighting the following literary devices:

**simile - red, hyperbole - blue, alliteration - green, metaphor - orange, personification - purple, onomatopoeia - pink, oxymoron - brown.**

It was Saturday. Just another ordinary day for some but for Milly, it was going to be the best day of her life!

Today she was turning **fabulous four** on a **super Saturday** and couldn't wait!

Dad had been blowing up balloons all morning, **his face was a red as a ripe tomato!** He blew the balloons up, let go and watched them **fly and dance**, **whizzing** and **screeching** across the room - Milly thought this was seriously funny!

It was almost time for the party to begin and **small crowd** gathered in the garden.

"Come on, Mum," called Milly, "it won't be long before millions of people will be here!" she chuckled.

Mum was already on her way to the garden gate, letting more guests in.

"Welcome to the circus!" she smiled and gave a wink to Milly, who couldn't wait to start her special party off with a **bang!**

Completed the task?  
Share it with us on social media!

