

Poetry Collection: Pablo Neruda, Elizabeth Bishop, Emily Dickinson
Literary Analysis: Figurative Language

Poets often use **figures of speech**, or **figurative language**, to make their poems more musical and memorable. The chart below lists and explains three common figures of speech.

Figure of Speech	Definition	Example
simile	a comparison of two unlike things as if they are alike, using a comparing word such as <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> to state the comparison	The wind is like a cheerleader.
metaphor	a comparison of two unlike things as if they are alike, suggested by stating one thing <i>is</i> another	The wind is a cheerleader.
personification	a comparison of something nonhuman with something human, suggested by giving the nonhuman thing human characteristics	The wind sang in a loud, cheerful voice.

DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions about the figurative language in “Ode to Enchanted Light.” Include the line numbers of any examples you list.

- List two similes that help the reader picture the light in “Ode to Enchanted Light.”

- Which simile in the first nine lines do you think best captures the enchanted mood the poet wants to convey? Why? _____

- Explain how the details about the cicada involve personification. _____

- With what metaphor does “Ode to Enchanted Light” conclude? _____

- What feelings, or mood, does the final metaphor help convey? _____

Poetry Collection: Patricia Hubbell, Richard García, Langston Hughes

Literary Analysis: Figurative Language

Poets often use imaginative **figures of speech**, or **figurative language**, to make their poems more musical and memorable. Figures of speech often compare unlike things. A **simile** directly states the comparison of two unlike things by using a word such as *like* or *as*. A **metaphor** suggests a comparison between two unlike things by saying that one *is* the other. **Personification** compares something nonhuman to a human being by giving it human characteristics.

Similes: Life is like a dance. The ocean is as moody as a child.

Metaphor: Life is a dance.

Personification: The ocean laughs and cries.

DIRECTIONS: On the chart below, record the desired examples.

	Line Number(s)	What Two Things Are Compared	Type of Figure of Speech
1. Simile in "Concrete Mixers"			
2. Metaphor in "Concrete Mixers"			
3. Personification in "Concrete Mixers"			
4. Personification in "The City Is So Big"			