***The House on Mango Street:* Figurative Language**

Figurative language is a tool writers use to describe a feeling, or create a picture or situation when the usual words do not convey it perfectly. Several forms of figurative language and their definitions are listed below.

• **alliteration**: the repetition of initial consonant sounds to invoke a feeling or sound

• **allusion**: a reference to a person, place, or item outside the context of the text

• **metaphor**: the comparison of two unlike things

• **personification**: the act of giving an animal or inanimate object human characteristics

• **onomatopoeia**: a word that mimics the sound it describes

• **simile**: the comparison of two unlike things, using the word “like” or “as”

• **symbolism**: the use of items to represent ideas or qualities

• **synesthesia**: the explanation of one sensory experience by describing another

**Part I**

Directions: Read the sentences below. Identify which type of figurative language is being used, and write your answer on the line provided. Then, underline the examples of that type of figurative language in the sentence.

1. This winter is like an old dog that cannot decide where to rest for the night. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Several scaly snakes slithered across the street this morning! \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. You should have seen Khoi at the swim meet! He was showing the kinds of times Michael Phelps put up in his pre-Olympic days! \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. As I packed my things for college and moved into my dorm, the falling maple leaves reminded me that my childhood was over. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. Parvati drove home that night, with the feeling that the moon was following her to ensure she arrived safely. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. I love to drink a mug of hot chocolate while listening to the sweet notes of a jazz concert, away from the bitter cold outside. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. Happiness is breathing the fresh mountain air while working with your hands. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. Serena’s mother clicked her tongue to show she disapproved of a teenager with such an expensive purse. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pick one of the sentences above and explain its use of figurative language. Why was the sound, comparison, or imagery important to describing the situation?

Part II

Directions: Read each of the examples of figurative language from The House on Mango Street below. On the lines below the quotation, identify the type of figurative language being used and explain the line using literal language (simple factual description), rather than figurative language.

1. “And me, my hair is lazy. It never obeys barrettes or bands.” (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. “Until then I am a red balloon, a balloon tied to an anchor.” (9)

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3. “[Rachel and Lucy] are wearing shiny Sunday shoes without socks.” (15)

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4. “Me, I never said nothing to him except once when I bought the Statue of Liberty for a dime.” (20)

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5. “Then he starts [the music box] up and all sorts of things start happening. It’s like all of a sudden he let go a million moths all over the dusty furniture...” (20)

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6. “But watch us drive into a neighborhood of another color and our knees go shakity-shake and our car windows get rolled up tight and our eyes look straight.” (28)

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7. “... and nobody looked up not once the day Angel Vargas learned to fly and dropped from the sky like a sugar donut, just like a falling star, and exploded down to earth without even an ‘Oh.’” (30)

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8. “Alicia, who inherited her mama’s rolling pin and sleepiness, is young and smart and studies for the first time at the university.” (31)

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