

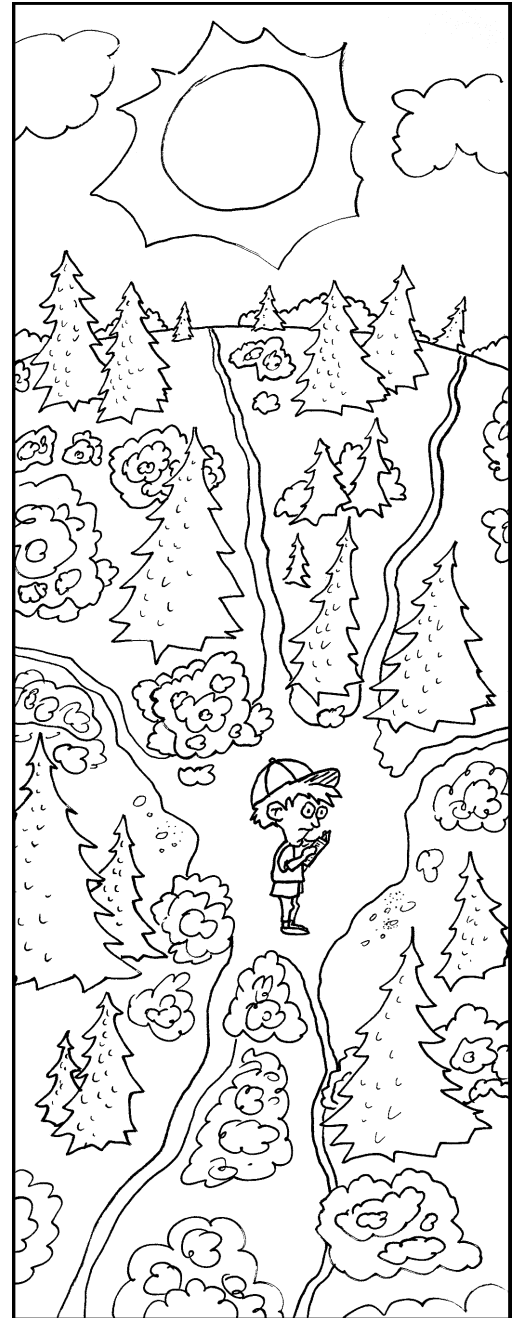
Using Figurative Language

☉ Step 1: MINI-LESSON: Using Figurative Language to Improve Your Writing

- 📖 Read the following two stories and think about what makes them different.

Story 1: Toby was lost. He must have wandered off from his family during their morning hike because around noon he realized that he was all alone in the middle of the woods. He wasn't frightened exactly, but he was definitely anxious to find his family before evening. The thought of spending a night in the woods alone was a scary one. Heaving a sigh, Toby walked on.

Story 2: Toby was totally lost. He must have wandered off from his family during their morning hike because around noon he realized that he was alone in the middle of the wide whispering woods. *Thunk! Thunk!* went his feet on the soft pine needles that covered the ground like a soft brown blanket. Birds twittered and tweeted from the sky-scraping branches of trees, but there was no sound of his family. He wasn't frightened exactly, but he was as anxious as a fish out of water to find his family before evening. The thought of spending a night in the woods alone was one that made his heart dance a fearful frenzied jig in his chest. Heaving a sigh, Toby tiredly trudged on.



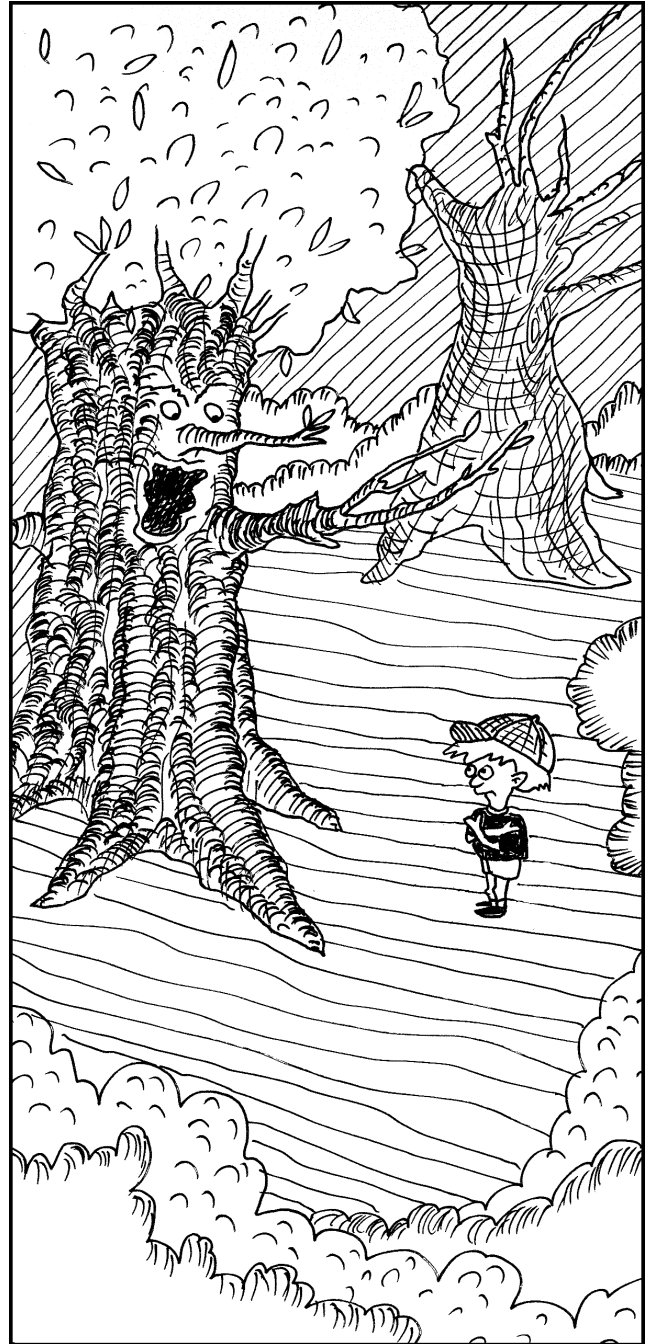
- 📖 The two stories above include the same events and character, but are told in different ways. Story 1 tells about Toby's experience in plain language that does not give many details, nor does it explain what Toby must have been feeling. Story 2, on the other hand, helps the reader understand Toby's experience by using figurative language. Figurative language forms images in readers' minds, showing them what something is like, instead of just telling them.

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Using Figurative Language

Here are some types of figurative language:

- ✦ **Alliteration** = using several words that all include the same sound
Example: Toby was totally lost . . . wide whispering woods . . . fearful frenzied
- ✦ **Hyperbole** (pronounced high-per-bow-lee) = greatly exaggerating the truth (often used to be funny)
Example: sky-scraping branches (the height of the branches is being exaggerated because tree branches cannot actually scrape or scratch the sky)
- ✦ **Simile** = comparing two unlike things using the words like or as
Example: he was as anxious as a fish out of water to find his family (Toby is being compared to a fish)
- ✦ **Metaphor** = comparing two things by substituting one object for another (without using the words like or as)
Example: The thought . . . made his heart dance a fearful frenzied jig in his chest (Toby's heart is being compared to something that can dance a jig)
- ✦ **Onomatopoeia** = naming an action or a thing according to what it sounds like
Example: Thunk! Thunk! went his feet . . . Birds twittered and tweeted



- ⊗ Step 2: READ the following story and then rewrite it including figurative language.
 (If you are having trouble, look back at the tips above.)

Tanysha sat up late in her bedroom trying to study. She was an all-A student, and tomorrow's math test was an important one. Lying back on her bed for a minute Tanysha started daydreaming about going to college and becoming a doctor one day.

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Using Figurative Language

- 1. Adding Alliteration:** Choose a word in the story from the previous page, and add at least one more word nearby that has the same sound. Write the new sentence on the line below.

Example: Tanysha sat up late in her bedroom silently and studiously trying to study.

- 2. Adding a Hyperbole:** Choose an idea in the story from the previous page and exaggerate it to make it funny. Write the new sentence on the line below.

Example: She was such a great student that anything less than a 100++ would send her sobbing from the room.

- 3. Adding a Simile:** Choose a word in the story from the previous page and compare it with something else using the words like or as. Write the new sentence on the line below.

Example: Tomorrow's math test was as important to Tanysha as a candidate's final election speech is in the presidential election.

- 4. Adding a Metaphor:** Choose an idea in the story from the previous page and substitute a different string of ideas without using the words "like" or "as." Write a new sentence on the line below.

Example: Tanysha sat up late in her bedroom trying to squeeze her head with numbers and formulas.

- 5. Adding Onomatopoeia:** Choose something in the story above that might make noise and then attribute a noise word to it. Write the new sentence on the line below.

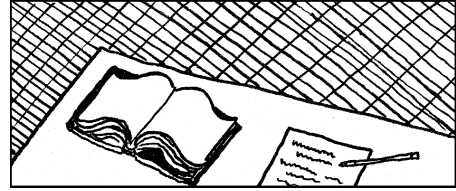
Example: With a squeak of bedsprings and the crunch of crumpled paper, Tanysha lay back on her bed for a minute.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Using Figurative Language

- ☼ Step 3: READ your chosen fairy tale and complete the information about the story.



Fairy Tale Title: _____
Summary (include who, what, when, where, why):

- ☼ Writing Extension: On a separate sheet of paper, choose a scene from the story and rewrite it using at least two examples of onomatopoeia, alliteration, similes, metaphors, and hyperbole. Every time you use one of these, circle it so that your teacher can easily find your examples of figurative language.

