

FISH IN A TREE

Figurative Language Activities

An *Almost* Comprehensive List Of Figurative Language in *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

— LIST BY CHAPTER —

Chapter 2

- Hyperbole: "It's like she ripped a bush out of the ground."
- Simile: "I need attention like a fish needs water."
- Simile: "Reading for me is like dumping a can of alphabet soup on a plate."

Chapter 4

- Personification: "The letters on the page squiggle and dance."
- Simile: "Three words that hold sadness like a tree holds leaves."
- Metaphor: "Her voice reminds me of a pin hidden in a candy bar."

Chapter 5

- Simile: "We're like oil and water, school and me."

Chapter 7

- Metaphor: "If trying to read helped, I'd be a genius!"
- Proverb: "Set the World on Fire!"

Chapter 9


- Pun: "Hidden Messages - The 'Batter' Way to Send a Note!"

Chapter 10

- Simile: "Asking me to read them would be like asking a lobster to play tennis."

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE SKILL: SIMILE
A simile compares two or more things that are not similar. The author uses the word "like" or "as" in the comparison.

EXAMPLE: The princess looks as pretty as a flying dove.



SOME SIMILES FROM *FISH IN A TREE*

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- Simile: "I need attention like a fish needs water."
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- Simile: "Asking me to read them would be like asking a lobster to play tennis."

Chapter 13

- Simile: "Dark red ribbons that wind around the stem like a barbershop light pole."

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EXAMPLE: The princess looks as pretty as a flying dove.



I found the following similes in *Fish in a Tree*! Here's what they mean:

| SIMILE | EXPLANATION |
|---|---|
| "I need attention like a fish needs water." -Ally, Chapter 2 | Ally is saying that she doesn't need any attention. She has enough on her already, just like a fish has plenty of water to live in. |
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- Pun: "Hidden Messages - The 'Batter' Way to Send a Note!"

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- Simile: "Asking me to read them would be like asking a lobster to play tennis."

Chapter 11

- Metaphor: "Every word is another shovel-full of dirt from the hole I've dug."
- Hyperbole: "Sometimes, I think Jessica would follow Shay out of an airplane without a parachute."

Chapter 12

- Hyperbole: "It must take three days to do all that."

Chapter 13

- Metaphor: "You are so low, you could play tennis against a curb."
- Simile: "Dark red ribbons that wind around the stem like a barbershop light pole."
- Idiom: "Put some muscle into it."

Chapter 15

- Hyperbole: "I'll be celebrating another birthday before I get it written down."
- Simile: "When it comes to that (writing), my brain is like gears with no grease."
- Simile: "The boys are as excited as if they've heard that free pizza would be delivered too."

Chapter 16

- Hyperbole: "Personally, I'd rather have the flu."
- Question: "Is Ally's story about Porkchop the cat a Hyperbole? Why or why not?"

Chapter 17

- Hyperbole: "Shay's voice arrives before she does."
- Idiom: "She can flap her gums all she wants."

Chapter 18

- Hyperbole: "Mrs. Silver would have to carry a trophy for me so big that I'd have to carry it in on her back!"

Chapter 19

- Idiom: "They think you'll just keep being their punching bag."
- Metaphor: "I call them [bullies] fire ants. A group of small beings that can come overwhelming."
- Simile: "Well this is like trying to give Jell-O a spine!"

Chapter 20

- Simile: "He just shakes the keys like a baby rattle."
- Simile: "It's (bright green) like a pickle with tires!"
- Personification: "The spring yanks them (the wipers) back down, slapping the snow."

Chapter 21

- Simile: "I put my arms out like a tree."

Chapter 23

- Simile: "Mr. Daniels can see into my guts, like he's handing me a flashlight in a dark room."
- Idiom: "He throws his hands up."

Chapter 24

- Hyperbole: "I'd rather eat crayons than do the rest of it, though."
- Hyperbole: "I'd rather wear handcuffs."

Chapter 26

- Metaphor: Ally compares her brain to the wheels of a bicycle.

An *Almost* Comprehensive List
of Figurative Language Found in Novel

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE SKILL: SIMILE

A simile compares two or more things that are not similar. The author uses the word "like" or "as" in the comparison.

EXAMPLE: The princess looks as pretty as a flying dove.



SOME SIMILES FROM *FISH IN A TREE*

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- Simile: "Dark red ribbons that wind around the stem like a barbershop light pole."

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE SKILL: HYPERBOLE

An extreme exaggeration of the truth.

EXAMPLE: The sidewalk is hotter than the sun!



SOME HYPERBOLES FROM *FISH IN A TREE*

Chapter 2

- Hyperbole: "It's like she ripped a bush out of the ground."

Chapter 11

- Hyperbole: "Sometimes, I think Jessica would follow Shay out of an airplane without a parachute."

Chapter 12

- Hyperbole: "It must take three days to do all that."

Chapter 15

- Hyperbole: "I'll be celebrating another birthday before I get it written down."

Chapter 16

- Hyperbole: "Personally, I'd rather have the flu."
- Is Ally's story about Porkchop the cat a Hyperbole? Why or why not?

Chapter 17

- Hyperbole: "Shay's voice arrives before she does."

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE SKILL: PERSONIFICATION

Giving a non-living object human characteristics.

EXAMPLE: The tornado whirled around in a circle on its tip-toes.



SOME PERSONIFICATION FROM *FISH IN A TREE*

Chapter 4

- Personification: "The letters on the page squiggle and dance."

Chapter 20

- Personification: "The spring yanks them (the wipers) back down, slapping the window."

Chapter 47

- Personification: "My head swims with all that's changed."

Chapter 50


- Personification: "His eyebrows jump."

Figurative Language by Type

Simile * Metaphor * Idiom * Hyperbole * MORE!

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE SKILL: SIMILE
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 The author uses the word "like" or "as" in the comparison.

EXAMPLE: The princess looks as pretty as a flying dove.




I found the following similes in *Fish in a Tree!* Here's what they mean:

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FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE SKILL: METAPHOR
 A simile compares two or more things that are not similar.
 The author **does not** use the word "like" or "as" in the comparison.

EXAMPLE: The boy was a nerdy computer of sorts!



I found the following metaphors in *Fish in a Tree!* Here's what they mean:

| METAPHOR | EXPLANATION |
|--|--|
| "Her voice reminds me of a pin hidden in a candy bar." -Ally, Chapter 4 | Ally is saying that Shay's voice sounds sharp and harsh, just like a pin would feel on her skin. |
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FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE SKILL: IDIOM
 A phrase that has both a literal and a figurative meaning.

EXAMPLE: The ball is in your court.

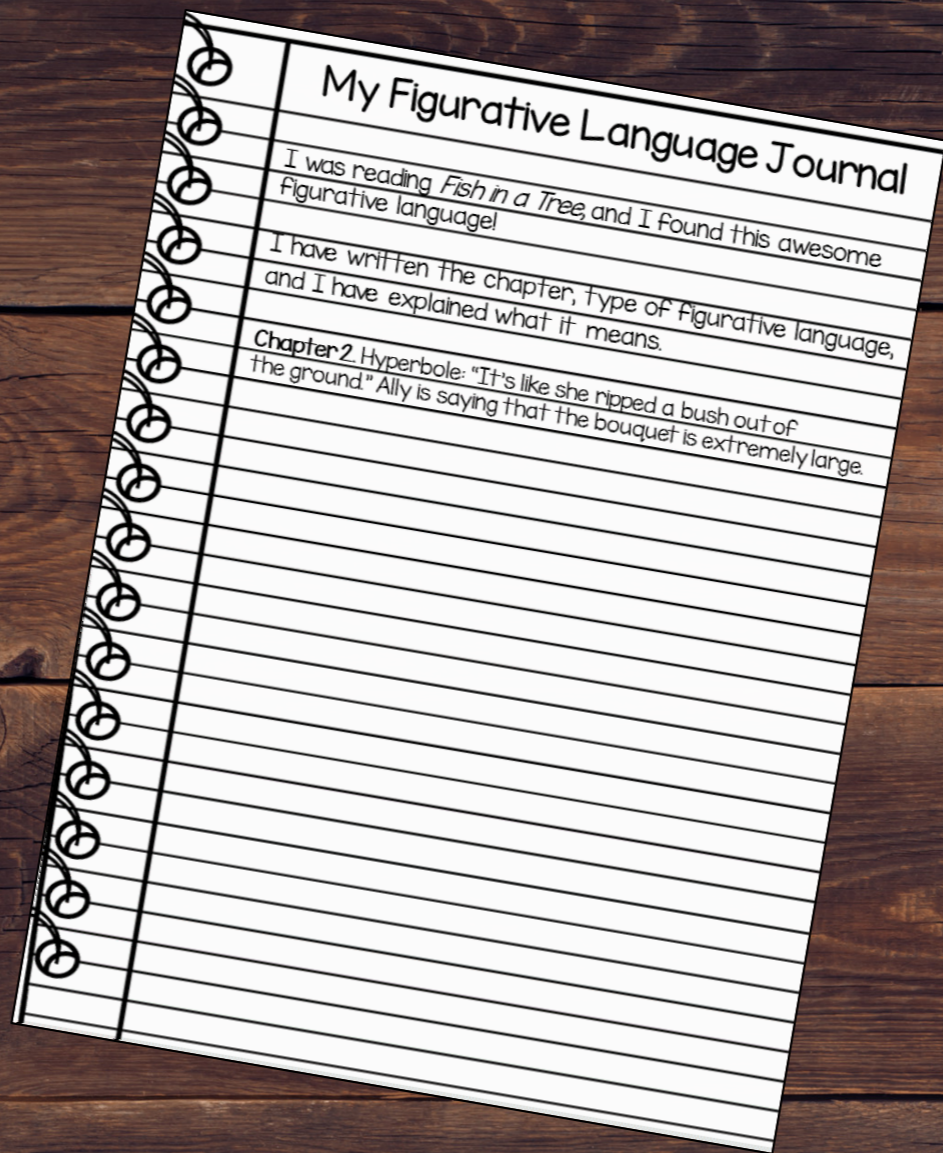


I found the following idioms in *Fish in a Tree!* Here's what they mean:

| IDIOM | EXPLANATION |
|---|--|
| Idiom: "Put some muscle into it." Chapter 13 | This idiom means that you need to try harder and put more effort into something - maybe physically, maybe emotionally. |
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Student Find-and-Fill

Students Locate Language and Fill In Organizers



Figurative Language Journal

Students Keep Track of Figurative Language

COMMON CORE LANGUAGE AND VOCABULARY

- L.4 and L.6: Acquire and Use New Vocabulary (General and Content-Specific)
- RL.4: Vocabulary Acquisition in Fictional Texts
- L.5: Figurative Language

Standards Covered in This Resource