

Lesson 2: Literary Elements & Techniques Part 2

(approximately one hour)

Today, you'll be working on a number of short exercises designed to reinforce your ability to recognize literary techniques and explain how an author uses those techniques to communicate the central idea.

Exercise 1

Read the song lyrics below.

*You are the thunder and I am the lightning,
And I love the way you know who you are,
And to me it's exciting when you
Know it's meant to be.*

- 5 *Everything comes naturally, it comes naturally
When you're with me, baby.
Everything comes naturally.*

“Naturally”, Selena Gomez & The Scene

1. Underline the figurative language that appears in the lyrics.
2. What is the central idea of these lyrics?

3. Explain how the author uses this figurative language to communicate their central idea.

Exercise 2

Read the song lyrics below.

*Looking back on the memory of
The dance we shared beneath the stars above,
For a moment, all the world was right.
How could I have known you'd ever say goodbye?*

5 *And now I'm glad I didn't know
The way it all would end, the way it all would go.
Our lives are better left to chance. I could have missed the pain,
But I'd have had to miss the dance.*

10 *Holding you, I held everything.
For a moment, wasn't I the king?
But if I'd only known how the king would fall...
Hey, who's to say? You know, I might have changed it all.*

15 *And now I'm glad I didn't know
The way it all would end, the way it all would go.
Our lives are better left to chance. I could have missed the pain,
But I'd have had to miss the dance.
Yes, my life is better left to chance.
I could have missed the pain, but I'd have had to miss the dance.*

“The Dance”, Garth Brooks

1. In line 10, what is the figurative meaning of the narrator’s language?

2. What does “the dance” symbolize in this song?

3. What is the central idea of this song?

4. How does the lyricist use figurative language to convey his central idea?

Exercise 3

Take a look at the political cartoon below.



1. What is the central idea of this cartoon?

2. How does the cartoonist use symbolism to convey his central idea? Make specific reference to at least two symbols used in the cartoon.

Exercise 4

Doree had to take three buses—one to Kincardine, where she waited for one to London, where she waited again, for the city bus out to the facility. She started the trip on a Sunday at nine in the morning. Because of the waiting times between buses, it took her until about two in the afternoon to travel the hundred-odd miles. All that sitting, either on buses or in the depots, was not a thing she should have minded. Her daily work was not of the sitting-down kind.

From “Dimension”, Alice Munro

How does the author characterize Doree? Cite specific evidence from the text.

Exercise 5

- He had plastic bags wrapped ‘round his shoes.
He was covered with the evening news.
Had a pair of old wool socks on his hands.
The bank sign was flashing ‘five below’.*
- 5 *It was freezing rain and spitting snow.
He was curled up behind some garbage cans.
I was afraid that he was dead.
I gave him a gentle shake.*
- 10 *When he opened up his eyes,
I said, "Old man, are you ok?"*
- He said, "I just climbed out of a cottonwood tree.
I was running from some honeybees.*

*Drip-drying in the summer breeze
After jumping into Calico Creek.*

15 *I was walking down an old dirt road
Past a field of hay that had just been mowed.
Man, I wish you'd just left me alone
'Cause I was almost home."*

*Then he said, "I was coming round the barn
'Bout the time he grabbed my arm.
When I heard Momma holler, 'Son, hurry up!'
I was close enough for my own nose
To smell fresh cobbler on the stove.
When I saw Daddy loading up the truck,*

25 *Cane poles on the tailgate,
Bobbers blowing in the wind,
Since July of '55,
That's as close as I've been."*

“Almost Home”, Craig Morgan

1. How does they lyricist characterize the old man? Cite specific evidence from the lyrics.

2. How does the lyricist characterize the narrator? Cite specific evidence from the lyrics.

3. This song makes use of imagery at several points. Identify at least three specific examples of imagery appealing to three **different** senses. Make sure you specify these senses.

4. In this song, “home” has both a literal and a symbolic meaning. What is the literal meaning?

5. Depending on your interpretation, there are a few layers of symbolic meaning that “home” could have; what do you think it symbolizes?

Exercise 6

Read the article from newsela.com about texting and answer the attached questions.