Persuasive Language Devices

Device	Definition	Example
Adjectives and Adverbs	Influence how readers feel by carefully selecting adjectives and adverbs.	
Alliteration	Place words beginning with the same sound close together to emphasise a point.	
Emotive Language	Words designed to evoke emotions, and make people feel a certain way (eg. guilty, sad, angry).	
Hyperbole	Use exaggerated language to emphasise your argument.	
Involve the Reader	Talk to the reader using inclusive language such as 'our', 'we', 'us', or 'you'.	
Modality	High modality words indicate a high level of certainty (eg. will, must). Low modality words indicate a low level of certainty (eg. might, could).	
Power of Three	Make a list of three things that support your argument to help make a dramatic point.	
Repetition	Use words or phrases more than once to reinforce a point and make an argument memorable.	
Rhetorical Questions	Questions that aren't supposed to be answered. They're asked to illustrate a point or to make the reader think.	
Use Evidence	Use facts, figures or quotes to help persuade the audience.	

Identifying Persuasive Devices 1

Adjectives & Adverbs	Influence how readers feel by carefully selecting adjectives and adverbs.	Involve the Reader	Talk to the reader using inclusive language such as 'our', 'we', 'us', or 'you'.
Alliteration	Place words beginning with the same sound close together to emphasise a point.	Modality	The use of words that indicate a high level of certainty of an event occurring.
Emotive Language	Words designed to evoke emotions, and make people feel a certain way (eg.. guilty, sad, angry).	Repetition	The use of words or phrases more than once to reinforce a point and make an argument memorable.

Read each passage. Work out the persuasive devices being used to try to persuade the reader. Explain your answers.

1. We need to act before it's too late!

   Persuasive device/s: _____

   Explain:

2. This may disappoint some people, but if action is taken now, the community will see many benefits.

   Persuasive device/s: _____

   Explain:

3. It's the fastest roller coaster in the city. It's the fastest roller coaster in the country. It's the fastest roller coaster in the world!

   Persuasive device/s: _____

   Explain:

4. These playful puppies need our help.

   Persuasive device/s: _____

   Explain:

5. The dog was abandoned in a filthy street.

   Persuasive device/s: _____

   Explain:

Identifying Persuasive Devices 2

Rhetorical Questions	Questions that aren't supposed to be answered. Asked to illustrate a point or to make the reader think.	Involve the Reader	Talk to the reader using inclusive language such as 'our', 'we', 'us', or 'you'.
Alliteration	Place words beginning with the same sound close together to emphasise a point.	Modality	The use of words that indicate a high level of certainty of an event occurring.
Use Evidence	Use facts, figures or quotes to help persuade the audience.	Repetition	The use of words or phrases more than once to reinforce a point and make an argument memorable.

Read each passage. Work out the persuasive devices being used to try to persuade the reader. Explain your answers.

1. According to the RSPCA, over 4,000 dogs are put down every year. The situation is worse for cats, with the figure almost 12,000.

   Persuasive device/s: _____

   Explain:

2. Every night, people without a home must survive in the city's dirty, dangerous alleyways.

   Persuasive device/s: _____

   Explain:

3. Can we afford not to act? Can our children afford us not to act?

   Persuasive device/s: _____

   Explain:

4. This cannot be allowed to continue. It must stop now!

   Persuasive device/s: _____

   Explain:

5. Don't you want to give our children the best future possible?

   Persuasive device/s: _____

   Explain:

Emotive Language

Emotive language evokes emotions. It is designed to make people **feel** a certain way.

For example, if a writer wants to make a reader feel…

curious	angry
↓	↓

They might use words such as…

secret	shameful
forbidden	repulsive
unbelievable	scandal

Highlight the emotive language used in each sentence.
Write down the emotion you feel when reading each.

1. There was a cowardly attack on a vulnerable citizen.

Emotion: _____

2. An astonishing cure for headaches has been discovered.

Emotion: _____

3. Courageous woman fights off killer crocodile.

Emotion: _____

4. The poor dog was abandoned in a filthy street.

Emotion: _____

5. Locals live in fear of the shark infested waters.

Emotion: _____

6. The kitten made a miraculous escape from the deadly inferno.

Emotion: _____

7. The ship's maiden voyage was doomed from the start.

Emotion: _____

8. Our city's poorest people are forced to live in appalling conditions.

Emotion: _____

Narrative Elements & Features

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R R W C M L F C P I O Q B Y U Q I L
K V R X M A T X Q X E L P M O C R O
E S Y P I D E S B R E V D A N L C Z
W B O D G J N V S B I D A O R H J H
N H L W V E S U K E S M I C A W N T
S A N F V C I F B P T T S R T O A J
V C X I V T O F K G A T A E I I N R
W O R S M I N H V T A C I T A V O E
O M E I V V X G N T T K A N Q U Z N
K M S M G E W E E E U C Y U G B H R
T A O P I S I M R E I G E V E W K R
M N L L S R E S Z L O S D A U I B I
S D U E O N J C P Z T I P P G N E Z
F S T W T Y P M Q I T F F O O Y E C
A S I S T H O O O L V U M P L P G W
G Y O P F C W N G P J J L C A C K Y
M J N H G K S V E C F Q R H I G F N
M I A T W C O M P O U N D X D D C B
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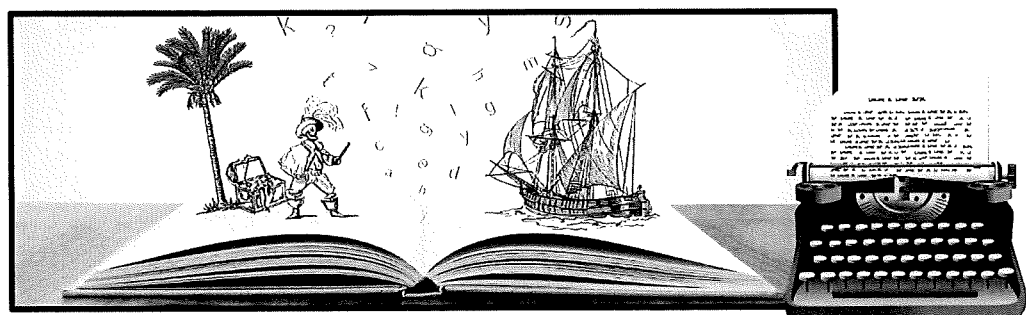|			
orientation	complication	resolution	characters
setting	statements	commands	questions
simple	compound	complex	action
adverbs	adjectives	tension	dialogue

Figurative Language

Similes: make a comparison between two different things, normally using *like* or *as*

Metaphors: state a comparison between two different things, often using *is* or *was*

Onomatopoeia: words that imitate sounds

Hyperbole: language that exaggerates

Personification: gives human characteristics to things that are not human

Alliteration: when words beginning with the same sound are grouped together

Read each sentence. Circle to show what figurative language has been used.

1. I've read this book a hundred times.

        simile   hyperbole

        alliteration   metaphor

2. The children heard a *hisssss* coming from the long grass.

        alliteration   personification

        onomatopoeia   hyperbole

3. Her room was a prison.

        onomatopoeia   simile

        personification   metaphor

4. Fran's five favourite friends.

        onomatopoeia   personification

        hyperbole   alliteration

5. The sky wept.

        personification   hyperbole

        alliteration   simile

6. Jimmy ate like a pig.

        hyperbole   metaphor

        simile   onomatopoeia

☆ Try choosing one figurative language device and writing your own!

Figurative Language 1

Similes: make a comparison between two different things, normally using *like* or *as*

Metaphors: state a comparison between two different things, often using *is* or *was*

Onomatopoeia: words that imitate sounds

Hyperbole: language that exaggerates

Personification: gives human characteristics to things that are not human

Alliteration: when words beginning with the same sound are grouped together

Work out which figurative language device is used in each sentence. Explain why you made your choice in the box below.

1. I've read this book a hundred times.

Device: Because:

2. The children heard a *hisssss* coming from the long grass.

Device: Because:

3. Her room was a prison.

Device: Because:

4. Fran's five favourite friends.

Device: Because:

5. The sky wept.

Device: Because:

6. Jimmy ate like a pig.

Device: Because:

Hyperboles

Hyperbole is language that exaggerates in order to make a point. For example:

He can run faster than the wind.

Or

I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.

Hyperboles can also be similes or metaphors.

Use the words in the box below to complete the hyperboles.

never	wind	ever	five seconds	pea
million	killing	impossible	whole world	horse

1. This level is _____ to beat.

2. He's got a brain the size of a _____.

3. Our teacher _____ stops talking.

4. The test was so easy I finished in _____ _____.

5. These new shoes are _____ my feet.

6. She's so skinny she'd be blown away by the _____.

7. "I've told you a _____ times" said mum.

8. I'm so hungry I could eat a _____.

9. That is the most boring movie in the _____ _____.

10. That's the best idea _____.

Compound Sentences Sheet 1

A compound sentence is two simple sentences (independent clauses) joined together using a conjunction.

Conjunctions			
for	and	but	so
nor	or		yet

1. Read each simple sentence. Think of an independent clause you could join to it using one of the conjunctions above. Re-write your new compound sentence on the line. The first one has been done.

The gate slammed shut.

The gate slammed shut and the dog barked.

Sandra was lost.

_____

I didn't want to clean my room.

_____

Sam came first in the sprints.

_____

Her arm was really sore.

_____

Max couldn't see his parents.

_____

2. Circle the clauses in each of your compound sentences. Underline the conjunction you used to join the clauses together.

For example: The gate slammed shut and the dog barked.

Make sure each clause is a complete thought.

Complex Sentences Sheet 1

A complex sentence is an independent clause joined with a dependent clause.

Conjunctions						
while	after	though	when	whereas	as	unless
since	although	if	even though	where	until	wherever

1. Create a complex sentence by adding a dependent clause to the following independent clauses. Use a conjunction from the box above. The first one has been done.

If you begin with a dependent clause, remember a comma!

The dog barks.

Whenever the gate slams shut, the dog barks.

I turned eight.

_____

He decided to go swimming.

_____

Paula started to do her homework.

_____

The man ate his dinner.

_____

Don't run on the concrete.

_____

2. Complex sentences can begin with the independent clause or the dependent clause. Choose two of your complex sentences and re-write them, changing the order of the clauses. Which sounds best?

For example: _Whenever the gate slams shut, the dog barks._

The dog barks whenever the gate slams shut.