

Shout-Out to Shakespeare

William Shakespeare used a lot of figurative language in his plays and poems. Read the examples of figurative language from Shakespeare's works below. Identify which literary device (or devices) is being used and how you know, and describe what the lines mean in your own words.

I. From As You Like It

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.

Which literary device is being used? Select all that apply.

- a. metaphor
- b. simile
- c. personification

How do you know?

What do you think these lines mean?

2. Romeo describing Juliet in Romeo and

Oh, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!
It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night
Like a rich jewel in an Ethiope's ear

Which literary device is being used? Select all that apply.

- a. metaphor
- b. simile
- c. personification

How do you know?

What do you think these lines mean?

3. From "Sonnet 18":

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimmed

Which literary device is being used? Select all that apply.

- a. metaphor
- b. simile
- c. personification

How do you know?

What do you think these lines mean?

Many of Shakespeare's texts have been adapted to take place in different time periods and/or societies. In this section, you're going to adapt one of Shakespeare's works. You have two options:

1. Choose a Shakespeare play that you're studying or have studied. Describe the main characters, the setting and major events of the plot. Then, write a paragraph describing how you could adapt this play to take place in a different time period and/or society. For example, this could be the present-day US, India in the 1940s or a colony on the moon in the future.
2. Read Shakespeare's "Sonnet 18." Then, rewrite this sonnet in your own words as a rap. Maintain Shakespeare's original theme, but use your own original rhymes and figurative language.

Option 1

Play:
Setting:
Main characters:
Major plot events:

On a separate sheet of paper, explain how you'd adapt this play to take place in a different time period and/or society. Describe the new setting, main characters and at least three major plot events.

Option 2

"Sonnet 18"

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to Time thou grow'st.
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Themes in "Sonnet 18":

Ideas for your own figurative language and rhymes:

On a separate sheet, write "Sonnet 18" as a rap song.