

Words on the Trail

Explain how figurative language changes a message for its audience.

5.T.SS.2.a “Describe the impact of the use of figurative language such as similes, metaphors, idioms, hyperboles, and personification in response to audience and purpose, in various modes and genres. (I)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the journal and sign silently. With a partner, take turns reading the welcome aloud. Find a simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole and idiom. For each, discuss what it means and how it affects the intended audience.

Maya's Trail Materials

At the fictional Pine Ridge Nature Center, Maya wrote a field journal for her cousin, who loved drawing. “Morning fog curled around the pond like a silver scarf. The sun was a warm coin above the trees, and the water winked at me.” Maya wanted her cousin to picture the scene, not follow trail directions.

Maya also made a sign for visiting families. “Stay on the path. The forest is a shared home. Do not feed wildlife, or you may have a million snack-seeking guests. Pack out every crumb.” The ranger checked the sign. Its short commands told walkers how to care for the place they were visiting.

For a spoken welcome to younger visitors, Maya practiced these words: “Keep your eyes peeled for blue jays. Listen closely, because the woods may whisper a clue.” Then she added, “That means watch and listen carefully for animals.” Maya wanted to invite children to notice the woods without confusing them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** How do “like a silver scarf” and “a warm coin” help the journal’s audience? Name both techniques.

- 2** What effect does “the water winked at me” create? Explain why it is not literal.

- 3** What does “a million snack-seeking guests” do in the sign? Would an exact count have the same effect?

- 4** Explain the idiom “Keep your eyes peeled” and the personification “the woods may whisper a clue.” Why does Maya add a literal explanation for younger listeners?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Compare how figurative language serves different audiences and purposes in these materials. Discuss the journal and sign with a partner, then write your own explanation using a specific phrase from each. Also explain what reading the welcome aloud helps a listener notice.

1. Discuss and record

Take turns explaining which material best uses figurative language for its audience. Ask your partner why, and record one point of agreement or difference with supporting words from the text.

2. Explain the effects

Compare one journal phrase and one sign phrase. Explain each phrase's effect and how it serves that audience and purpose. Add what you noticed when the welcome was read aloud.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read the journal and sign silently. With a partner, take turns reading the welcome aloud. Find a simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole and idiom. For each, discuss what it means and how it affects the intended audience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do “like a silver scarf” and “a warm coin” help the journal’s audience? Name both techniques.	The scarf comparison is a simile; the coin comparison is a metaphor. They help the cousin imagine the fog’s shape and the sun’s round, warm appearance.
2	What effect does “the water winked at me” create? Explain why it is not literal.	It personifies the water, making reflected light seem friendly or lively. Water cannot wink with an eye.
3	What does “a million snack-seeking guests” do in the sign? Would an exact count have the same effect?	It is hyperbole: an exaggerated number makes the feeding warning memorable. An exact count would sound like a factual report and would not create the same comic exaggeration.
4	Explain the idiom “Keep your eyes peeled” and the personification “the woods may whisper a clue.” Why does Maya add a literal explanation for younger listeners?	The idiom means watch closely; whispering woods suggests listening for quiet animal sounds. Younger visitors may not know these expressions, so the explanation makes the action clear.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Possible discussion note

My partner preferred the journal's scarf comparison because an artist could picture it. I preferred the sign's exaggerated guests because it made the rule memorable. We agreed both choices suit their different jobs.

Comparison

The journal's "like a silver scarf" simile invites the cousin to imagine fog curling around the pond. That visual detail suits a reader who enjoys drawing. The sign's "a million snack-seeking guests" hyperbole exaggerates the result of feeding animals to catch families' attention and reinforce a rule. Both are memorable, but one builds a picture and the other warns. Reading the welcome aloud let me hear a pause before the plain explanation. That pause helped separate the playful words from the action younger visitors should take.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Require interpretation and audience/purpose reasoning, not only technique labels. The forest-as-home phrase is another metaphor; woods whispering is another personification. Accept different supported effects. Hear actual partner readings and discussion before students record observations. The model's conversation and audible pause are examples, not observations students should copy as their own. A speaker may use a different pause or emphasis; learners should describe what they actually heard.