Truth Turnaround

Sort bold exaggeration from deliberate minimizing.

9.RL.2 "Craft and Style Analyze the use of rhyme, rhythm, sound, imagery, and other literary devices in poetry to convey a message and elicit a reader's emotions. Explain how an author's specific word choices, syntax, tone..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

HYPERBOLE

Hyperbole uses an extreme exaggeration that is not meant literally. It emphasizes a strong feeling or situation.

"My phone rang a million times during breakfast."

UNDERSTATEMENT

Understatement makes a serious, large, or intense situation sound smaller or less important. It can create a calm, dry, or humorous tone.

After fireworks shook the windows, Nia muttered, "That was slightly noisy."

1 SORT

8 items

Read each statement, then circle HYPERBOLE or UNDERSTATE.

1.	This suitcase weighs a ton.	HYPERBOLE / UNDERSTATE
2.	The stadium lights were brighter than the sun.	HYPERBOLE / UNDERSTATE
3.	After the concert was canceled, Darnell said, "That is a small setback."	HYPERBOLE / UNDERSTATE
4.	I waited a century for the bus.	HYPERBOLE / UNDERSTATE
5.	After winning the championship, Imani said, "We played fairly well."	HYPERBOLE / UNDERSTATE
6.	The burst pipe flooded the gym. "A little water got in," the principal said.	HYPERBOLE / UNDERSTATE
7.	The toddler's scream could wake the whole city.	HYPERBOLE / UNDERSTATE
8.	My inbox contains a mountain of messages.	HYPERBOLE / UNDERSTATE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new hyperbole and one new understatement. Make each example clear enough that a reader can sort it.

HYPERBOLE _____

UNDERSTATE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence scene that includes one hyperbole and one understatement. Then state the intended meaning and tone of each device.

ANSWER KEY

Truth Turnaround

GRADE 9 · 9.RL.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	This suitcase weighs a ton.	**HYPERBOLE**	"A ton" is an extreme, nonliteral weight.
2	The stadium lights were brighter than the sun.	**HYPERBOLE**	The comparison exaggerates the lights' brightness.
3	After the concert was canceled, Darnell said, "That is a small setback."	**UNDERSTATE**	Canceling a concert is presented as less serious than it is.
4	I waited a century for the bus.	**HYPERBOLE**	A century is an impossible exaggeration of the wait.
5	After winning the championship, Imani said, "We played fairly well."	**UNDERSTATE**	A major victory is minimized as merely playing fairly well.
6	The burst pipe flooded the gym. "A little water got in," the principal said.	**UNDERSTATE**	A flood is minimized as a little water.
7	The toddler's scream could wake the whole city.	**HYPERBOLE**	The statement exaggerates how loud the scream was.
8	My inbox contains a mountain of messages.	**HYPERBOLE**	A mountain is an extreme comparison for the number of messages.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **HYPERBOLE**: "The violinist's solo lasted forever."
- **UNDERSTATE**: Understatement: After the power outage darkened the auditorium, Omar remarked, "The lights are a little dim."

Challenge: When the final bell rang, the crowd thundered loudly enough to shake the planet. Ms. Chen smiled at the packed hallway and said, "It is a little busy." The hyperbole means the crowd was extremely loud and creates an excited tone. The understatement means the hallway was very crowded and creates a dry, calm tone.

Accept equivalent student examples when the wording clearly exaggerates or clearly minimizes the situation. For the challenge, students should identify both the intended meaning and the tone created by each device.