**Figurative language**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Hour\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following activities to help you understand figurative language

1. **Alliteration**: (Not always extreme, like in tongue twisters : )

Definition:

Read the examples on the first website listed below alliteration and write down your favorite one:

Underline the alliteration in the following example:

Acquainted with the Night  
by  
Robert Frost

I have been one acquainted with the night.  
I have walked out in rain -- and back in rain.  
I have outwalked the furthest city light.  
  
I have looked down the saddest city lane.  
I have passed by the watchman on his beat  
And dropped my eyes, unwilling to explain.  
  
I have stood still and stopped the sound of feet  
When far away an interrupted cry  
Came over houses from another street,  
  
But not to call me back or say good-bye;  
And further still at an unearthly height,  
O luminary clock against the sky  
  
Proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor right.  
I have been one acquainted with the night.

Create your own example of alliteration, like a tongue twister, or something simpler:

Underline the examples of alliteration in the Sandra Cisneros stories.

2. **Assonance**: (Not always end rhyme : )

Definition:

Read the examples on the first website listed below assonance and write down your favorite one:

Underline the assonance in the following example:  
**Thread**

by Jonathan Galassi

Heartworn happiness, fine line that winds

among the tapestry’s old blacks and blues,

bright hair blazing in the theater,

red hair raving in the bar—as now

the little leaves shoot veils of gold

across the trees’ bones, shroud of spring,

ghost of summer, shadblow snow, blood-

russet spoor spilled prodigal on last year’s leaves . . .

When your yellows, greens, and yellow-greens,

your ochres and your umbers have evolved

nearly to hemlock blackness, cypress blackness,

when the woods are rife with soddenness

(unfolded ferns, skunk cabbage by the stream,

barberry by the trunks, and bitter

watercress inside the druid pool)

will your thin, still-glinting thread insist

to catch the eye in filigreed titrations

stitched along among beneath the branches,

in the branches where it lives all winter,

occulted fire, brief constant fleeting gold . . .

Create your own example of assonance, like some rhyming lines, or something more complex:

Underline examples of Assonance in the Sandra Cisneros stories.

3. **Simile**:

Definition:

Complete the following similes:

Her eyes are as blue as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 His pillow was fluffy like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 She was as mean as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Underline the similes in the following example:

A Red, Red Rose  
By Robert Burns  
  
O My Luve's like a red, red rose,  
That's newly sprung in June;  
O My Luve's like the melodie  
That's sweetly played in tune.  
  
As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,  
So deep in luve am I;  
And I will luve thee still, my dear,  
Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear  
While the sands o' life shall run.  
  
And fare thee weel, my only luve,  
And fare thee weel, awhile!  
And I will come again, my luve  
Tho' it ware ten thousand mile!

Create three examples of similes and write them below:

Underline the similes in the Sandra Cisneros stories.

4. **Metaphor**:

Definition:

Complete the following similes:

My teacher is an ornery \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 The cloud was a puffy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 The dark room is a musty \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Underline the metaphors in the following example:

**Fifth of July**

My family is an expired firecracker  
set off by the blowtorch of divorce. We lay  
scattered in many directions.  
My father is the wick, badly burnt  
but still glowing softly.  
My mother is the blackened paper fluttering down,  
blowing this way and that, unsure where to land.  
My sister is the fallen, colorful parachute,  
lying in a tangled knot, unable to see the beauty she  
holds.  
My brother is the fresh, untouched powder that  
was protected from the flame. And I,  
I am the singed, outside papers, curled away  
from everything, silently cursing  
the blowtorch.

By: John  
http://www.teachervision.fen.com/poetry/literary-techniques/5453.html?detoured=1

Create three metaphors and write them below:

Underline the metaphors in the Sandra Cisneros stories.

5. **Hyberbole**:

Definition:

Read the examples on the second website below Hyperbole and write down your three favorites :

Underline the hyperbole in the following example:

THE OLYMPIC RUNNER (hyperbole)

The sun beat down so hard it burnt his back,  
His feet ate the dust as he ran the endless track,  
The wind gave him wings and the miles flew by,  
He was gunning for gold, for victory he’d die.  
  
Critics had a field day when he entered the arena,  
They could have knocked him down with a feather,  
“Sideways you can’t see him through a 50-cent coin,  
Bones on a cold carcass make up his manly loin.”   
  
“His feet so long he will surely fall flat on his face,  
Legs stretch down like two bamboo poles in place,  
From the land of famine he gets not his daily bread,  
If he wins, we’ll eat our hats,” in mockery they said.  
  
As he touched the finish line, the crowd went wild,  
Cheers heard across the land by every man and child,  
His heartbeats so erratic they were beating out of time  
If he could take a shot at his critics it’d be no crime.  
  
Sweat streamed down, pooled like rivulets on the floor,  
A warrior back from the battlefield, battered and sore,  
Standing tall as a Brobdingnagian, the anthem sung  
The joy so sweet, he could taste it on his tongue.  
  
He was so tired he felt he could sleep for a year  
The cynics struck dumb, had no cause to jeer,  
‘A man in a million’ was the headlines that day  
“Not a mere man but a giant in spirit,” they say.

Create three examples of hyperbole and write them below:

Underline the examples of hyperbole the Sandra Cisneros stories.

6. **Personification**:

Definition:

Read the examples on the first website below Personification and write down your two favorites :

Underline the hyperbole in the following example:

**The Train  
Emily Dickinson**

I like to see it lap the miles,   
And lick the valleys up,  
And stop to feed itself at tanks;  
And then, prodigious, step

Around a pile of mountains,  
And, supercilious, peer  
In shanties by the sides of roads;  
And then a quarry pare

To fit its sides, and crawl between, Complaining all the while  
In horrid, hooting stanza;  
Then chase itself down hill   
  
And neigh like Boanerges;  
Then, punctual as a start its own,  
Stop-docile and omnipotent-  
A stable door.

Create three examples of personification and write them below:

Underline the examples of personification in the Sandra Cisneros stories.

7. **Onomatopoeia**:

Definition:

Write down three onopatopoetic words :

Underline the onomatopoeia in the following example:

Onomatopoeia

by

Eve Merriam

The rusty spigot  
sputters,  
utters  
a splutter,  
spatters a smattering of drops,  
gashes wider;  
slash  
splatters  
scatters  
spurts  
finally stops sputtering  
and plash!  
gushes rushes splashes  
clear water dashes.

Create three examples of onomatopoeia and write them below:

Underline the examples of onomatopoeia in the Sandra Cisneros stories.