

What is Literary Vocabulary?

Worksheet

Literary vocabulary encompasses elevated, poetic, and artistic language used to create vivid imagery and emotional depth — including figures of speech, stylistic devices, and evocative word choices that distinguish literature from everyday communication.

Questions

1. 'The city sleeps.' This is an example of...

- A) symbolism
- B) personification
- C) metaphor
- D) alliteration

2. Which sentence contains a simile?

- A) Her voice was music.
- B) He ran like the wind.
- C) The night was dark.
- D) Books are treasure.

3. What is the main purpose of literary vocabulary?

- A) To confuse readers
- B) To create vivid imagery and emotional impact
- C) To make text longer
- D) To replace everyday speech

4. 'Busy, bustling marketplace'—this is an example of...

- A) metaphor
- B) alliteration
- C) simile
- D) symbolism

5. Identify the literary device: 'The stars danced across the night sky.'

6. Which is more literary: 'The old building' or 'The crumbling edifice stood like a weary sentinel'?

7. What makes this sentence literary? 'Her laughter echoed like silver bells through the silent hall.'

8. Define: What is personification in literary vocabulary?

9. Define: Define metaphor.

10. Define: What does alliteration do?

Answer Key

1. B) personification — Cities cannot sleep, but this gives the city human action—personification.
2. B) He ran like the wind. — 'Like' signals a simile. The others are metaphors or plain statements.
3. B) To create vivid imagery and emotional impact — Literary devices enrich meaning and engage the reader's imagination.
4. B) alliteration — The repetition of 'b' sound creates alliteration.
5. This is personification — stars are given human action (dancing). It creates vivid imagery and emotion beyond literal description.
6. The second uses elevated vocabulary (edifice), metaphor (sentinel), and alliteration (weary). It conveys atmosphere and depth that 'old' alone cannot.
7. It uses simile (like silver bells), alliteration (silent), personification (laughter echoing), and elevated diction (echoed, bells) to evoke sensory richness.
8. Giving human qualities or actions to non-human things (e.g., 'the wind whispered').
9. A direct comparison between two things without 'like' or 'as' (e.g., 'time is a thief').
10. Repeats initial consonant sounds to create rhythm and emphasis (e.g., 'vicious, virtuous villain').

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