

# GALE LESSON PLAN

## *Figurative Language with Gale In Context: Literature*

**GRADE LEVEL:** 9-12

**SUBJECT/CONTENT:** English Language Arts

**FOCUS QUESTIONS:** What is figurative language? How do authors use figurative language to make a story more vivid?

**RESOURCE:** *Gale In Context: Literature*

**LEARNING EXPECTATION:** Students will be able to define and identify various types of figurative language including connotation, denotation, hyperbole, understatement, imagery, personification, satire, irony, simile, metaphor, synecdoche, and metonymy.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** Devices with access to *Gale In Context: Literature* and copies (print or digital) of accompanying lesson materials.

**LESSON OVERVIEW:** Students will begin by studying and defining the various types of figurative language, recording definitions and examples of each on their graphic organizers (attached to this lesson). They will then complete a task card activity using the short stories “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut, “The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell, and “There Will Come Soft Rains” by Ray Bradbury. They will identify uses of figurative language throughout the three stories.

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### PROCEDURES:

#### Part 1: Defining the Types of Figurative Language

##### Steps/Activities for the Teacher:

- Provide students with computers and ensure they can sign into *Gale In Context: Literature*.
- Review how to use the platform, including basic search and browse strategies, topic pages, and the tools available (for training tutorials visit [support.gale.com/training/videos](https://support.gale.com/training/videos)). Review figurative language with students to give them an introduction to the topic.
- Provide students with a copy of **Figurative Language Graphic Organizer** (attached to this lesson). Distribute digitally or make as many copies as needed.
- Access the **Figurative Language Topic Page** in *Gale In Context: Literature* and share with students. After students have completed the accompanying activity, you can review as a class.

##### Steps/Activities for the Students:

- Students will access the document **Figurative Language Topic Page** in *Gale In Context: Literature*. Students will take time to read and analyze the documents, identifying, defining, and creating examples of each type on their copy of the **Figurative Language Graphic Organizer**.

## Part 2: Identifying Figurative Language in Literature

### Steps/Activities for the Teacher:

- Provide students with computers and ensure they can sign into *Gale In Context: Literature* to access the short stories “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut, “The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell, and “There Will Come Soft Rains” by Ray Bradbury.
- Provide students with the **Task Cards** activity and **Figurative Language Answer Sheet** (attached to this lesson). Distribute digitally or make as many copies as needed. See Teacher Directions for tips on task card setup.
- After students have completed the accompanying activity, you can review as a class.

### Steps/Activities for the Students:

- Students will access the short stories “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut, “The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell, and “There Will Come Soft Rains” by Ray Bradbury via *Gale In Context: Literature*.
- Students will explore the stories, answering the questions and identifying the various types of figurative language used.
- Students will record their answers on the **Figurative Language Answer Sheet**.

## LESSON MODIFICATIONS

### Increased Collaboration:

- Have students work with partners or groups to read the short stories and complete the task cards.

### Extended Activity:

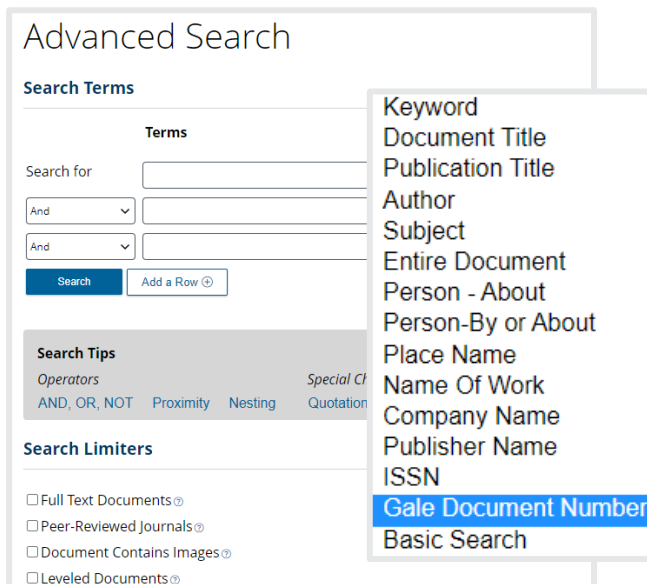
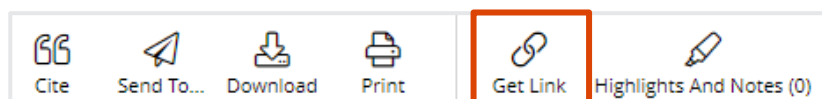
- Choose additional poems, stories, and novels to read and identify uses of figurative language.
- Have students create their own examples of figurative language examples to describe certain feelings and scenarios.

The best way to have students access task articles it to have them visit ***Gale In Context: Literature*** and perform an **Advanced Search**.

Provide students with the **Gale Document Number**.

They will then select **Gale Document Number** from the Field drop-down menu and enter the document numbers below to access the content for each task.

Articles can also be shared with students via the **Get Link** tool.



**GALE IN CONTEXT: LITERATURE**  
**Figurative Language**  
**Graphic Organizer**

**Figurative language** is an expressive form of language that conveys meaning beyond literal definitions.

**Directions:** Using *Gale In Context: Literature*, visit the **Figurative Language Topic Page** under **English Language Arts**. Using the information for each type of figurative language, fill in the definition, and provide two examples for each type.

TYPE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
Connotation		
Denotation		
Hyperbole		
Understatement		
Imagery		

TYPE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
<b>Personification</b>		
<b>Satire</b>		
<b>Irony</b>		
<b>Simile</b>		
<b>Metaphor</b>		
<b>Synecdoche</b>		
<b>Metonymy</b>		

Using figurative language, describe the feeling of joy you experience when accomplishing a long-awaited goal. Be sure to include at least two different types of figurative language in your response.

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# GALE IN CONTEXT: LITERATURE

## Figurative Language Task Cards

### Teacher Directions

#### DIRECTIONS

Students will be given a set of task cards which they will use to identify the different types of figurative language from various short stories. Students will use the QR codes for each story to access the full-text in *Gale In Context: Literature*. Students will record their answers on the Task Card Answer Sheet. There is an Answer Key below for teacher use. Note that some answers will vary from student to student.

#### TASK CARD SETUP

Cut the task cards and place together using a clip, envelope, or bag. To reduce copies, consider having students work with a partner or group to pass the cards around, completing the questions individually.

HARRISON BERGERON	THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME	THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS
1. ANSWERS VARY	1. Hyperbole	1. Imagery
2. Hyperbole	2. Simile	2. Personification
3. Understatement	3. Personification	3. Simile
4. Imagery	4. ANSWERS VARY	4. ANSWERS VARY
5. Personification	5. Metaphor	5. Hyperbole
6. ANSWERS VARY	6. Understatement	6. Understatement
7. Simile	7. Imagery	7. Personification
8. Metaphor	8. Simile	8. Metaphor
9. ANSWERS VARY	9. Personification	9. Metaphor
10. ANSWERS VARY	10. ANSWERS VARY	10. Simile
11. ANSWERS VARY	11. ANSWERS VARY	11. ANSWERS VARY
12. Metaphor	12. ANSWERS VARY	12. ANSWERS VARY
13. Hyperbole	13. ANSWERS VARY	13. Hyperbole
14. Simile	14. Metaphor	14. ANSWERS VARY
15. Personification	15. Hyperbole	15. Imagery
16. Imagery	16. Imagery	16. ANSWERS VARY

**GALE IN CONTEXT: LITERATURE**  
**Figurative Language Task Cards**  
**Student Directions**

Access the stories below in *Gale In Context: Literature*. Using the clues on the task cards, your figurative language notes, and the full texts of the short stories, answer each figurative language question on your Figurative Language Task Card Answer Sheet. You will only use the figurative language types from your notes: connotation (1), hyperbole (2), understatement (1), imagery (2), personification (2), satire (1), irony (1), simile (2), metaphor (2), synecdoche (1), and metonymy (1). *Hint: the number indicates how many of each there are for each story.*

**“Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut**

This short story is a satire of a dystopian society in which all people are equal. In addition to equality under the law, individuals are made equal in every sense, with sometimes-torturous handicaps dragging the gifted down to be the same as everyone else: the physically strong have weights strapped to their bodies, and the clever have tiny radios blasting in their ears to prevent them from concentrating. When Harrison Bergeron breaks out of his handicaps and declares himself emperor, readers wonder whether they should root for his rebellion or fear his desire for power.



**“The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell**

This chilling tale follows big game hunter Rainsford as he is trapped on a remote island, where the cruelly eccentric General Zaroff presents an impossible choice. Rainsford must use every bit of his strength and every trick he has ever learned during his hunts if he wants to survive.



**“There Will Come Soft Rains” by Ray Bradbury**

This short story is a portrait of an automated house that carries on its duties long after its residents are dead from a nuclear blast. The house announces the date, cooks meals, and tidies away all messes, but it cannot save itself from a devastating fire.



# “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut

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# "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell

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# “There Will Come Soft Rains” by Ray Bradbury

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**1** “The year was 2081, and everybody was finally **equal**.”

What **connotation** does the word “**equal**” have here?

**2** “Nobody had ever born heavier handicaps. He had outgrown hindrances faster than the H-G men could think them up.”

What type of figurative language is used here?

**3** The story says, “**Hazel had a perfectly average intelligence...**”, but then goes on to explain how she cannot think in more than short bursts at a time.

What type of figurative language is used here?

**4** “The music began again and was much improved. Harrison and his Empress merely listened to the music for a while—listened gravely, as though synchronizing their heartbeats with it.”

What type of figurative language is used here?

**5** “The photograph of Harrison Bergeron on the screen jumped again and again, as though dancing to the tune of an earthquake.”

What type of figurative language is used here?

**6** What is **ironic** about the equality established in “Harrison Bergeron”?

**7** “A ballerina arose, swaying like a willow.”

What type of figurative language is used here?

**8** “Harrison’s appearance was Halloween and hardware.”

What type of figurative language is used here?

**9** "George, while his intelligence was way above normal, had a little mental handicap **radio in his ear.**"

How is the radio an example of synecdoche?

**10** Kurt Vonnegut uses **satire** in "Harrison Bergeron" to point out the absurdity in a world that is completely controlled and "equal".

What are some examples of how he establishes this **satirical tone**?

**11** "The Handicapper General came into the studio with a double-barreled ten-gauge shotgun."

How is the Handicapper General an example of **metonymy**?

**12** "Her voice was a warm, luminous, timeless melody."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**13** "**Scrap metal was hung all over him.** Ordinarily, there was a certain symmetry, a military neatness to the handicaps issued to strong people, but Harrison looked like a walking junkyard."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**14** "**Harrison tore the straps of his handicap harness like wet tissue paper,** tore straps guaranteed to support five thousand pounds."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**15** "A buzzer sounded in George's head. **His thoughts fled in panic,** like bandits from a burglar alarm."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**16** "His rubber-ball nose was twenty-nine inches long, his eyebrows were gone, and he had two red rubber balls for ear lobes."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**17** "No animal had a chance with me anymore."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**18** "The sea was as flat as a plate-glass window."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**19** "The thick warm blackness of the night was soothing. **It murmured and whispered**, but so faintly that it was like the memory of a sound."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**20** Rainsford, the protagonist, turns the tables on Zaroff and becomes the hunter.

How is this an example of **irony**?

**21** "The Cossack was the cat; he was the mouse."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**22** If my quarry eludes me for three whole days, he wins the game. If I find him" —the general smiled— "he loses."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**23** "The lights of the yacht became faint and ever-vanishing fireflies; then they were blotted out entirely by the night."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**24** "The thick warm blackness of the night was soothing. It murmured and whispered, but **so faintly that it was like the memory of a sound.**"

What type of figurative language is used here?

**25** "The jungle sprang vividly to life, the jungle that is always waiting, ready to pounce."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**27** General Zaroff refers to his hounds as "my pack."

How is this an example of **synecdoche**?

**29** The author satirizes the idea of Social Darwinism throughout the story.

What is an example of how he accomplishes that **satire**?

**31** "The world is made up of two classes--the hunters and the huntees."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**26** General Zaroff refers to his mansion as "the chateau."

How is this an example of **metonymy**?

**28** The **denotation** of the word "**hunt**" is to pursue an animal for food or in sport.

How does the **connotation** change in "The Most Dangerous Game"?

**30** "Following the trail with the sureness of a bloodhound came General Zaroff."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**32** "**The thick warm blackness of the night was soothing.** It murmured and whispered, but so faintly that it was like the memory of a sound."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**33** "The entire west face of the house was black, save for five places. Here the silhouette in paint of a man mowing a lawn. Here, as in a photograph, a woman bent to pick flowers."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**35** "Then, like mysterious invaders, they popped into their burrows."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**37** "The house gave ground as the fire in ten billion angry sparks moved with flaming ease from room to room..."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**39** "The house shuddered, oak bone on bone, its bared skeleton cringing from the heat, its wire, its nerves revealed as if a surgeon had torn the skin off to let the red veins and capillaries quiver in the scalded air."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**34** "*Nine-fifteen*, sang the clock, *time to clean*."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**36** The **denotation** of the word "**glow**" is to have a rich, warm color.

How does the **connotation** change in "The Most Dangerous Game"?

**38** "The house tried to save itself."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**40** "The house was an empty shell, a hollow vessel that echoed with the absence of life."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**41** "The house was an altar with ten thousand attendants, big, small, servicing, attending, in choirs,"

What type of figurative language is used here?

**42** "At eight-thirty the eggs were shriveled and the toast was like stone."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**43** The story shows the idea of a technologically advanced society that has become detached from nature and human connection, with an automated functioning house, even in the absence of human inhabitants.

How is this an example of **satire**?

**44** The narrator describes the house's daily routine: "Breakfast was ready, voices called, and soft music played."

How are the "voices" an example of **synecdoche**?

**45** "...a thousand things happening, a clock shop when each clock strikes the hour insanely before or after the other, a scene of maniac confusion, yet unity."

What type of figurative language is used here?

**46** The story mentions "the gentle sprinkling of water" to describe the rain.

How is this an example of **metonymy**?

**47** Still farther over, their images burned on wood in one titanic instant, a small boy, hands flung into the air; higher up, the image of a thrown ball, and opposite him a girl, hands raised to catch a ball which never came down.

What type of figurative language is used here?

**48** How is the reading of Sara Teasdale's poem *There Will Come Soft Rains* an example of **irony**?