

## Figurative Language

### Figures of Speech

**Simile:** comparison of two unlike things by using the words “like,” “as,” or “than”

**Example:** The lion leapt into action as a rocket into space.

**Metaphor:** comparison of two unlike things by saying one thing is another thing

**Example:** The lion became a rocket in motion. (notice there is no “like,” “as,” or “than” used)

**Extended/Implied Metaphor:** Sometimes a longer piece or the entire text is a type of metaphor in itself where unlike things are being compared.

**Example:** In the poem/song “I am a Rock,” on page 3 of *Sightlines 10*, the entire poem is comparing the narrator to a lone rock or a lone island. The metaphor is more than just one short comparison.

**Allusions:** references to a well known person, place, character, or literary text that the writer assumes the reader will recognize and quickly understand the reference

**Example:** The man gave the rock a Herculean shove. (referencing Hercules – man of great strength)

**Personification:** giving human like qualities to inanimate objects or animals

**Example:** The wind whispered my name.

**Hyperbole:** gross (large) exaggeration that cannot really happen

**Example:** I am so hungry, I could eat a horse!

**Imagery:** Vivid use of words that appeals to the senses (hearing/seeing/smelling/touching/taste)

**Example:** “...the wails of the siren and the rapid flashing of red and blue” indicated there was danger.

**Alliteration:** the use of the same beginning sound in close proximity (not same letter)

**Example:** The King’s face came closer to the child.

### Sound Devices

**Onomatopoeia:** when a word makes or imitates its own sound

**Example:** tick-tock/zipper/snap/buzz

**Repetition:** the repeating of words, phrases, lines, or sometimes even stanzas for emphasis and effect.

**Example:** “I am a rock./I am an island...” is repeated within the poem/song “I Am A Rock” for emphasis of meaning.

**Euphony:** the use of soft sounds to produce a pleasant mood or effect

**Example:** The soft silken sheets felt deliciously warm. (soft sounds “roll” off the tongue)  
For your example, use the poem “Envy” on page 41 of *Sightlines 10* where you will find a good example.

**Cacophony:** the use of harsh sounds to produce a dark or harsh effect

**Example:** The dagger struck deep, gashing his throat.... (harsh sounds require specific articulation of “hard” sounds in the back of the throat)