

Name: _____

Date: _____ Block: _____

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE in *Speak*

Authors use figurative language to create a picture in the readers' minds. Most of the time, the author is comparing what is really happening with something people are familiar with, allowing the reader to make a connection with what is happening in the novel. Figurative language also allows the author to express in more a powerful way what is occurring in the novel. Some literary elements that are used to create figurative language are:

Simile: a comparison between two unlike things using the words *like* or *as*.

Metaphor: a comparison between two unlike things without using the words *like* or *as*.

Personification: giving human qualities to non-living objects.

Activity One: Read the examples of figurative language from *Speak* listed below. Label each example with an **S** for simile, an **M** for metaphor, or a **P** for personification.

1. ____ Words climb up my throat.
2. ____ I dive into the stream of fourth-period lunch students and swim down the hall to the cafeteria.
3. ____ I have been dropped like a hot Pop Tart on a cold kitchen floor.
4. ____ We are all dressed in down jackets and vests, so we collide and roll like bumper cars at the state fair.
5. ____ There is a beast in my gut, I can hear it scraping away at the inside of my ribs.
6. ____ Her skin is a flat gray color, like underwear washed so many times it's about to fall apart.
7. ____ All the anger whistles out of me like I'm a popped balloon.
8. ____ Lights wink on, the fountains jump, music plays behind the giant ferns, and the mall is open.
9. ____ The card is still there, a white patch of hope with my name on it.
10. ____ I chomp my sandwich and it barfs mustard on my shirt.
11. ____ Her voice sounds like a cold engine that won't turn over.
12. ____ I am a deer frozen in the headlights or a tractor trailer.

Activity Three: Select an example of figurative language found in *Speak* and illustrate it. You may use an example from this sheet or another example from the novel. On the back attempt to draw what the author is saying literally, making the illustration humorous and showing how figurative language helps readers picture what is going on. Be sure to include the actual quotation at the bottom of your drawing.