



# **The Grammar Dog Guide to Figurative Language in Shakespeare's Plays**

**All quizzes use sentences from twenty plays.  
Includes 400 multiple choice questions.**

## About Gramwardog

Gramwardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Gramwardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Gramwardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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**SAMPLE EXERCISES - FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE** in Shakespeare's Plays

**ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA**

**EXERCISE 2      STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*p = personification      s = simile      m = metaphor      h = hyperbole*

**ACT I**

- \_\_\_ 1.      Kingdoms are clay.
- \_\_\_ 2.      Ten thousand harms more than the ills I know my idleness doth hatch.
- \_\_\_ 3.      Like to the time o' th' year between th' extremes of hot and cold, he was nor sad nor merry.
- \_\_\_ 4.      My salad days, when I was green in judgment, cold in blood, to say as I said then.

**THE MERCHANT OF VENICE**

**EXERCISE 12      STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*p = personification      s = simile      m = metaphor      h = hyperbole*

**ACT I**

- \_\_\_ 1.      Your mind is tossing on the ocean, there where your argosies with portly sail – like signiors and rich burghers on the flood, or as it were, the pageants of the sea.
- \_\_\_ 2.      An evil soul producing holy witness is like a villain with a smiling cheek, a goodly apple rotten at the heart.
- \_\_\_ 3.      His reasons are as two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff: you shall seek all day ere you find them, and when you have them they are not worth the search.
- \_\_\_ 4.      . . . and her sunny locks hang on her temples like a golden fleece . . .

**SAMPLE EXERCISES - FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE** in Shakespeare's Plays

**THE TRAGEDY OF RICHARD III**

**EXERCISE 16      STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*p = personification      s = simile      m = metaphor      h = hyperbole*

**ACT I**

- \_\_\_ 1.      . . . when thy warlike father, like a child, told the sad story of my father's death and twenty times made pause to sob and weep, that all the standers-by had wet their cheeks like trees bedashed with rain.
- \_\_\_ 2.      I would to God my heart were flint, like Edward's, or Edward's soft and pitiful, like mine.
- \_\_\_ 3.      The worm of conscience still begnaw thy soul!
- \_\_\_ 4.      Methought I saw a thousand fearful wracks; ten thousand men that fishes gnawed upon.

**THE TEMPEST**

**EXERCISE 19      STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*p = personification      s = simile      m = metaphor      o = onomatopoeia      h = hyperbole*

**ACT I**

- \_\_\_ 1.      . . . he was the ivy which had hid my princely trunk and sucked my verdure out on 't.
- \_\_\_ 2.      To cry to th' sea that roared to us; to sigh to th' winds, whose pity, sighing back again, did us but loving wrong.
- \_\_\_ 3.      Bow, wow! The watchdogs bark. Bow, wow!
- \_\_\_ 4.      Thou shalt be as free as mountain winds; but then exactly do all points of my command.

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