

Instructional Overview

Book Club

The BFG
By: Roald Dahl
Grade Level: 5 / Guided Reading Level: U

Instructional Focus:
Understanding Figurative Language

Background:
Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions to convey meaning that is different from the literal meaning. When a writer uses literal language, he or she simply states the facts. Figurative language, in comparison, uses exaggeration to convey meaning and highlight a specific point.

Here are the most common forms of figurative language:

1. **Simile** – a figure of speech comparing two different things by using the words *like* or *as*
 - Example: As big as an elephant
2. **Metaphor** – a figure of speech comparing two things that are unlike in most ways but alike in one important way (does not use *like* or *as*)
 - Example: The classroom was a zoo.
3. **Personification** – a figure of speech in which human traits are given to non-living objects
 - Example: Lightning danced across the sky.
4. **Hyperbole** – a figure of speech that makes an exaggerated statement for dramatic effect
 - Example: I am so hungry I could eat a horse!
5. **Onomatopoeia** – a figure of speech in which a word sounds like the object it names or the sound the object makes
 - Example: Buzz, Sizzle, Zing, Splat, Flop, Cuckoo, Woof
6. **Idiom** – a phrase that means something different than the meaning of the individual words
 - Example: Give it a shot (try)
7. **Symbolism** – a person, place or thing that stands for something else
 - Example: Roses stand for love

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Instructional Focus

Description of the Instructional Focus

List of Book Club Meetings and the Instructional Focus for Each Meeting

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Instructional Overview:

Meeting #1
Set expectations for Book Club and Introduce Figurative Language

Meeting #2
(Chapters 2 – 4) Metaphors and Similes

Meeting #3
(Chapters 5 – 8) Personification

Meeting #4
(Chapters 9 – 12) Onomatopoeias

Meeting #5
(Chapters 13 – 16) Idioms

Meeting #6
(Chapters 17 – 20) Hyperboles

Meeting #7
(Chapters 21 – 24) Symbolism

Materials and Preparation:

- Determine which students will participate in *The BFG* Book Club (4–6 students)
- Gather copies of *The BFG* by Roald Dahl (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Book Club Calendar (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Expectations for Book Club (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Book Club Reading Response Board (1 per student)
- Prepare Reader's Notebooks (1 per student)
 - These may be spiral notebooks or several sheets of lined paper stapled together, or bound in a folder.
- Prepare copies of the Figurative Language Practice Page (1 per student)
- Optional: Prepare Vocabulary Resources (1 set per student)
- Optional: Prepare Student Self-Evaluation Forms (1 per student per meeting)
- Optional: Prepare Assessment Resources (1 set per student)

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