

The vocabulary words in this activity are found in the Center Stage play *Great Expectations* in issue 7 of *READ*.

slate • apprenticeship • loiter • morose • benefactor
contorted • society • interred • transported • churning

Directions: Choose the word from the word box that best completes each sentence below. Then, on the line provided, write the title of the famous novel or story the sentence refers to. You may use books and the Internet to research if you need help.

1. “We were in the middle of our writing lesson,” said Anne Shirley. “That mean old Gilbert Blythe was being so obnoxious that I put down my chalk and cracked my _____ right over his head!”

2. If it weren’t for Pip’s _____, he might never have become a gentleman.

3. When we _____ Roderick’s sister, Madeline, in the family tomb, I never for once imagined that she was still alive.

4. When Jonas is selected to become the town’s receiver of memories, he is as shocked as anyone, but begins his _____ eager to learn.

5. Yes, Quasimodo’s body was _____, but I have a hunch there was more to his character than that.

6. I stole a loaf of bread, and for that I was _____ to jail and imprisoned for five years. I tried to escape several times. Nineteen years later I was released. My prisoner number was 24601.

7. The Greasers looked real tough as they would _____ near the park, just biding their time until the Socs arrived.

8. “The whole world is full of phonies!” declared Holden. “Why anyone would ever want to be a part of _____ is beyond me. Bunch of lousy phonies.”

9. The Mississippi River was _____ under their raft. Jim looked at his friend and smiled.

10. The Doldrums were making Milo quite lethargic and gloomy and _____ and bored and ...
um ... yawn.

Directions: The questions below refer to the story “One Last Kiss” in issue 7 of *READ*. Select the best answer for each question. For questions requiring written answers, use the blank lines or a separate piece of paper.

1. (understanding character motivation)

Daniel says several times that his life is stupid. List five problems in his life that contribute to his feeling that way.

- a. _____
- _____
- b. _____
- _____
- c. _____
- _____
- d. _____
- _____
- e. _____
- _____

2. (understanding characterization)

Which of the following best describes Daniel’s grandmother?

- a. hard-hearted, deceitful, abusive
- b. powerful, loving, protective
- c. indulgent, untrustworthy, manipulative

List three details from the story that support your choice.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

3. (understanding author’s purpose)

What is the purpose of including the incident when Daniel’s mother bought him a necklace with an *O* charm instead of a *D* charm?

- a. It shows that Daniel’s mother is distracted and is not paying attention to him.
- b. It shows that Daniel is ashamed of his mother for being illiterate.
- c. It shows that Daniel is ungrateful and critical of his mother.

4. (understand figurative language)

The following sentence from the story is an example of what type of figurative language?
The kid’s face was a dartboard of pimples.

- a. metaphor
- b. simile
- c. personification

5. (understanding words in context)

In the following passage, if you don’t know Spanish, what can you assume about the word *mocoso*?

*His father had moved out on them two years before and he hadn’t come around once, though Daniel had seen him with a woman in the parking lot at Longs Drugs. His father had been holding a heart-shaped balloon in one hand and pushing a stroller with the other. Daniel was angry with his father. When had he ever given his mother a balloon? And that ugly **mocoso** baby!*

- a. It’s an adjective that says something nice about the baby.
- b. It’s a noun that means some kind of animal.
- c. It’s an adjective that describes the baby in an unflattering way.

6. (making assumptions)

At the end of the story, why can’t Daniel cry for his grandmother?

- a. He doesn’t love her, because she’s a criminal.
- b. He feels betrayed by her and doesn’t think she is telling the truth.
- c. He is so self-absorbed, he can think only about his own problems.

7. (compare and contrast)

What does the mystery girl’s kiss mean to Daniel? What does his grandmother’s kiss mean? Compare and contrast the two kisses.

8. (understanding the main idea)

What is Daniel’s main problem?

- a. He doesn’t have a girlfriend, and he’s jealous of guys who do.
- b. He’s embarrassed because other people know that his grandmother is wanted by the police.
- c. Many of the important people in his life have disappointed him.

Writers often use figurative language to add liveliness and complexity to their work. The figures of speech defined below give form to formless feelings and shape to invisible ideas. They all work by making comparisons that create images in the mind of the reader.

A **simile** makes a comparison between unlike things that share some element of commonality. It uses the words *like* or *as*. **Example:** *Her smile was as bright as the midday sun.*

A **metaphor** makes a direct comparison, essentially implying equivalency. One thing *is* the other. **Example:** *Her smile was the midday sun.*

A **hyperbole** is an obvious and intentional exaggeration. **Example:** *Her smile lit up the entire city.*

Part I

Directions: Identify the type of figurative language used in each sentence below. Write *S* (simile), *M* (metaphor), or *H* (hyperbole) on the line preceding each example.

- _____ 1. The rain dripped down from the sky like the tears of the moon.
- _____ 2. After the accident, Martin’s cheek was a bright, bruised melon of pain.
- _____ 3. Doubt darkened her face for a moment, like the shadow of a passing bird, and then was gone.
- _____ 4. “I’m so hungry I could eat a hippopotamus,” said the pregnant fashion model.
- _____ 5. During the storm, the forest was a symphony of wood and wind.
- _____ 6. “I cried a river over you,” sang the *American Idol* contestant on classics night.
- _____ 7. Zeke was as happy as a lottery winner who doesn’t have to share his winnings.
- _____ 8. “I will love you for eternity and beyond,” Alex whispered emotionally to his new car.
- _____ 9. “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players,” says Jacques.
- _____ 10. “My love is like a red, red rose,” wrote Robert Burns.

Part II

Directions: Some similes rely on clichés, which are tired, overused phrases. Common cliché similes include “as black as coal,” “as sharp as a tack,” and “as sly as a fox.” Finish the following similes in ways that are fresh and lively and which also make sense. (A good simile reflects the context of its use in the story, and there is no context here. Nevertheless, be inventive.)

- 1. I’m so happy; my heart is as full as a _____

- 2. Standing in front of my sneering classmates, I must have looked like a _____

- 3. The snow whips across my face like _____

- 4. The puppy was as squirmy as a _____

- 5. As soon as Matty opened the door to her bedroom, she was hit by an aroma that smelled as bad as _____

