

Figurative Language in *Fahrenheit 451*

One of the most captivating aspects of good literature is the use of **figurative language**, or ideas communicated beyond their literal meaning to create an image in the reader's mind. There are several types of figurative language, also called figures of speech. For this exercise, you will use the following figures of speech:

- **Metaphor:** a comparison, based upon similarity or resemblance, of two or more objects. "The pillow was a cloud." Metaphors can also be more complex: "His recliner was his throne and his remote his scepter: with these he ruled his kingdom."
- **Simile:** a comparison between two unlike objects, using the words "like" or "as" in the comparison: "The pillow is like a marshmallow."
- **Personification:** giving human qualities or characteristics to non-human objects: "The wind sang its sad song."

Section I Directions: Decide which of the underlined figures of speech are contained in the excerpt from *FH451*. Some excerpts contain more than one type of language, so you may circle more than one choice for each.

1. "The stars poured over his sight like flaming meteors" (145).
a. Metaphor b. Simile c. Personification
2. "Out of the black wall before him, a whisper. A shape. In the shape, two eyes. The night looking at him. The forest, seeing him" (145).
a. Metaphor b. Simile c. Personification
3. "A deer. He smelled the heavy musk-like perfume mingled with blood and the gummed exhalation of the animal's breath, all cardamom and moss and ragweed odor in this huge night where the trees ran at him, pulled away, ran, pulled away, to the pulse of the heart behind his eyes" (146).
a. Metaphor b. Simile c. Personification
4. "I am Plato's republic. Like to read Marcus Aurelius? Mr. Simmons is Marcus" (153).
a. Metaphor b. Simile c. Personification
5. "Perhaps he had expected their faces to burn and glitter with the knowledge they carried, to glow as lanterns glow, with the light in them" (160).
a. Metaphor b. Simile c. Personification
6. "Now, a full three seconds, all of the time in history, before the bombs struck, the enemy ships themselves were gone half around the visible world, like bullets in which a savage islander might not believe because they were invisible" (160).
a. Metaphor b. Simile c. Personification