

Act Two

Standards Focus: Figurative Language

One of the most captivating aspects of Act Two is Shakespeare's use of figurative language, or ideas communicated beyond their literal meaning to create an image in the reader's or audience's mind. There are several types of figurative language, called figures of speech:

metaphor: a comparison made between two seemingly unlike objects, —*The pillow was a cloud.*

simile: a comparison between two unlike objects using the words —like or as in the comparison, —*The pillow was like a marshmallow.*

personification: giving human attributes to non-human objects, —*The wind sang its sad song.*

hyperbole: an exaggeration made for humor or emphasis, —*I died when the boy I like finally talked to me.*

Directions: Read each quote from Act Two. First, decide which figure of speech is being used, then explain the figurative meaning of the quote. An example has been done for you.

Example: Chorus: Now old desire in his death-bed lie.

- a. Figure of Speech: personification
- b. Meaning: Desire is being compared to an old person who is dying; desire is dying

1. Romeo: *It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!*

- a. Figure of Speech:
- b. Meaning:

2. Romeo: *Arise fair sun, and kill the envious moon, / Who is already sick and pale with grief*

- a. Figure of Speech:
- b. Meaning:

3. Romeo: *The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars, / As daylight doth a lamp*