

Standards Focus: Figurative Language

Chapter Six

One of the most captivating aspects of Fitzgerald's work is his mastery 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, called **figures of speech**:

- **metaphor** - a comparison made between two 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 qualities or characteristics to non-human objects: "the wind sang its sad song"

Directions: Read each quote from the novel. First, decide what figure of speech is being used, then identify the comparison being made or the object being personified. An example has been done for you.

Ex. "... swirls and eddies of people I didn't know." (Ch. 3)

figure of speech: metaphor

analysis: comparing the people at the party to ocean waves, turning and crashing on themselves; the people are weaving through the party to socialize

1. "Their house was even more elaborate than I expected, a cheerful red and white Georgian Colonial mansion overlooking the bay." (Ch. 1)

figure of speech: _____

analysis: _____

2. "A breeze blew through the room, blew curtains in at one end and out the other like pale flags..." (Ch. 1)

figure of speech: _____

analysis: _____

3. "... twisting them up toward the frosted wedding cake of the ceiling..." (Ch. 1)

figure of speech: _____

analysis: _____

4. "...and then [the breeze] rippled over the wine-colored rug, making a shadow on it as wind does on the sea." (Ch. 1)

figure of speech: _____

analysis: _____

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