**Figurative Language Study Guide**

1. **Simile** – a figure of speech comparing two unlike things using **like or as**

Examples: Cute **as** a kitten. They fought **like** cats and dogs.

More Examples: As snug **as** a but in a rug; as blind **as** a bat; as strong **as** an

ox; cool as a cucumber;

Last night, I slept **like** a log; eat **like** a bird; swim **like** a fish

2. **Metaphor** – A word or phrase for one thing that is used to describe another

thing suggesting that they are similar.

Examples: My **teacher** is a **dragon**. (compares teacher to a dragon)

The **classroom** was a **zoo**.

My **room** is a **disaster area**.

More Examples: My dog is a chicken. He is a night owl.

The peaceful lake was a mirror.

3. **Onomatopoeia** – words that imitate sounds

Examples: KABOOM; BOOM; MEOW

More Examples: baa; giggle; blurt; ding dong; hiss; honk; moo;

chirp; buzz; oink

4. **Personification** – giving an object or an animal human feelings, thoughts, or

attitudes

Examples: The wind screamed as it came around the barn.

The flowers dance in the gentle breeze.

The fire swallowed the entire forest.

The wind howled in the night.

The stairs groaned as we walked on them.

More Examples: Traffic slowed to a crawl.

The flowers were begging for water.

The car’s headlights winked at me.

The book was so popular, it flew off the shelves.

5. **Alliteration** – The repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words.

Example: She sells sea shells by the sea shore

More Examples: Many companies use alliteration to make their name sound

catchy.

Coca-Cola, Best Buy, Chuck e Cheese, Dunkin’ Donuts

Names are easy to remember

Lindsay Lohan, Mickey Mouse, SpongeBob Squarepants, Miami Marlins

6. **Hyperbole** – extreme exaggeration

Example: I was so hungry I could eat a horse.

More Examples: He has tons of video games.

My mom is going to kill me.

Her smile was a mile wide.

7. **Imagery** – words and phrases that appeal to the five senses

Examples: After eating curry her breath reeked of spices.

The sand paper was rough against his skin.

More Examples: It was dark and dim in the forest.

He whiffed the aroma of brewed coffee.

The fresh and juicy oranges are very cold and sweet.

8. **Idiom** – Idioms exist in all languages. An idiom is a word or a phrase that has a

figurative meaning. It is not meant to be taken literally.

Examples: *a fish out of water* – being somewhere you don’t belong

*Hold your horses* - wait a minute

*Let the cat out of the bag* – tell a secret

*A chip on your shoulder* – you are holding a grudge