

Macbeth
Act Two
Standards Focus: Figurative Language

One of the most captivating aspects of *Macbeth* is Shakespeare's use of the literary device called **figurative language**—words that are used to convey images beyond their literal sense. There are several types of figurative language, also called **figures of speech**:

- **metaphor** — a comparison made between two unlike objects
- **simile** — a comparison between two unlike objects using the words "like" or "as"
- **personification** — giving human qualities or characteristics to non-human objects
- **hyperbole** — truth exaggerated for humor or emphasis

Directions: Read each excerpt from *Acts One and Two*. For Part A, decide what type of figure of speech has been underlined. Then, for Part b, "Analysis," identify the comparison being made, the object being personified, or the effect of the exaggeration. The numbers in parentheses represent the act and scene in which the quote appears. An example has been done for you.

Ex. If I say sooth, I must report they were / As cannons overcharged with double cracks (1.2)

- a. Figure of Speech: simile
- b. Analysis: the soldiers were on a rampage, ready to fight their way through anything and everything to win the battle

1. If you can look into the seeds of time / And say which grain will grow and which will not
 Speak then to me (1.3)

- a. Figure of Speech: _____
- b. Analysis: _____

2. If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me / Without my stir. (1.3)

- a. Figure of Speech: _____
- b. Analysis: _____

3. Come what come may, / Time and the hour runs through the roughest day. (1.3)

- a. Figure of Speech: _____
- b. Analysis: _____

4. More is thy due than more than all can pay. (1.4)

- a. Figure of Speech: _____
- b. Analysis: _____

5. That my (A) keen knife see not the wound it makes, / Nor (B) heaven peep through the (C) blanket of the dark. To cry, 'Hold, hold!' (1.5)

- (A) a. Figure of Speech: _____
- b. Analysis: _____

(B) a. Figure of Speech: _____

- b. Analysis: _____

(C) a. Figure of Speech: _____

- b. Analysis: _____

6. I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, which o'erleaps itself and falls on th' other— (1.7)

- a. Figure of Speech: _____
- b. Analysis: _____

7. A heavy summons lies like lead upon me / And yet I would not sleep. (2.1)

- a. Figure of Speech: _____
- b. Analysis: _____

8. Methought I heard a voice cry "Sleep no more! / Macbeth does murder sleep" (2.2)

- a. Figure of Speech: _____
- b. Analysis: _____

9. Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood / Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather / The multitudinous seas incarnadine, / Making the green one red. (2.2)

- a. Figure of Speech: _____
- b. Analysis: _____

10. Most sacrilegious murder hath broke ope / The Lord's anointed temple and stole thence / The life o' th' building! (2.3)

- a. Figure of Speech: _____
- b. Analysis: _____