



Figurative Language Unit based on *Island Sting*, by Bonnie J. Doerr

Lesson Plan I

Introduction - Figurative Language

Comment [b1]: Teachers: This unit works best if students have at least some exposure to the novel *Island Sting*. Plans I - III may be conducted while students are still reading. Suggested activities are most effective after the novel is completed.

Unit Goal: Students will be able to use their knowledge of figurative language to promote their appreciation and understanding of literature.

Unit Skills: Students will be able to identify, interpret, and use similes, metaphors and idioms in their own writing.

Figurative language - speech or writing that departs from literal meaning in order to achieve a special effect or meaning

- 1) Read aloud poem "Literal Me" (**Page 2**)
- 2) Provide copy for students to read silently.
- 3) If used as a review, allow time for students to prepare answers to discussion questions below. If introductions, skip to discussion.
- 4) Discussion (See pages 4-5 for possible comments)
 - a. What examples of figurative language are within each stanza?
 - b. How could these words and phrases be interpreted?
 - c. What misunderstandings could a reader have while reading each line or stanza?
 - d. What do you think the poet suggests in each stanza?
 - e. Taking all stanzas together, what would you say is the theme of "Literal Me?"

**Poem for Figurative Language
Lesson Plan I
Introduction or Review**

LITERAL ME

Magical Metaphors

A metaphor transforms a car.
Zap! It's a lightning flash.
I'd rather know how fast. How far.
Exact data on the dash.

Similar Similes

Similes use like or as to describe that car.
Like a snail. As a jet. Exact speed? Who knows?
Numbers make it clearer just how fast how far.
Distance please. Mph. No more fancy prose.

Idiotic Idioms

A poet writes:
Under my own steam if the time was ripe,
I'd be over the top—all fired up in a stew
Wearing a brave face, not a single gripe.
I'd have good company—in knee deep with a few.

Literal Me reads:

*I'm cooking when my food is ripe.
Boiling over a veggie stew.
The hot steam's scary, but I don't gripe.
I'm cool in the pool with you.*

Literal Me thinks:

*If poets used words in ways I know
Their poems would make sense to me
I could imagine. Meaning would flow.
I might learn to like poetry.*

By Bonnie J. Doerr

**Sample Discussion of Poem “Literal Me”
Figurative Language Lesson Plan I
Introduction or Review**

Magical Metaphors

A metaphor transforms a car.

Zap! It's a lightning flash.

I'd rather know how fast. How far.

Exact data on the dash.

- 1) What is being compared?
 - a. *Car and lightening.*

- 2) Is this a good comparison? Explain your thinking.
 - a. *This could be a good comparison if you want to say it's a fast car.*
 - b. *It's an especially good comparison for a race car because it zips (the word zip is a lot like zap) around a speedway fast. And a racecar travels at such a high speed its engine gets very hot and may catch on fire.*
 - c. *Would not be a good comparison for a car moving at the posted speed limit.*

- 3) Does the speaker like the metaphor? Why or why not? What can you conclude about the speaker?
 - a. *No. The speaker wants to know what the speedometer reading would be.*
 - b. *The speaker does not feel comfortable with vague, indefinite, or imprecise ideas.*

Similar Similes

Similes use like or as to describe that car.

Like a snail. As a jet. Exact speed? Who knows?

Numbers make it clearer just how fast how far.

Distance please. Mph. No more fancy prose.

- 1) What is being compared in this stanza?
(*Car and snail. Car and jet.*)

- 2) Is one or two cars? How do you know? (*Use of pronoun that followed by singular car indicates one car traveling at different speeds.*)

- 3) How does the reader feel about this description? (*Reader wants to know how many miles the car has traveled in the time it's traveled.*)

Sample discussion continues on next page.

Sample Discussion of Poem "Literal Me" (continued)
 Figurative Language Lesson Plan I
 Introduction or Review

LITERAL ME

Magical Metaphors

A metaphor transforms a car.

Zap! It's a lightning flash.

I'd rather know how fast. How far.

Exact data on the dash.

Comment [b2]: Metaphor The car is a lightning flash.

Similar Similes

Similes use like or as to describe that car.

Like a snail. As a jet. Exact speed? Who knows?

Numbers make it clearer just how fast how far.

Distance please. Mph. No more fancy prose.

Comment [b3]: Car moves slow like a snail or fast as a jet.

Idiotic Idioms

A poet writes:

Under my own steam if the time was ripe,

I'd be over the top and end up all in a stew

Wearing a brave face, you won't see me gripe.

I'll have many a friend and be in knee deep with a few.

Comment [b4]: All by myself with no help.

Comment [b5]: At an appropriate time. When I know enough or maybe have enough money or a good opportunity comes along

Comment [b6]: I'll be super excited to be independent, or happy for whatever is coming. Maybe too excited.

Comment [b7]: So much new stuff and excitement that I get myself worried, all worked up, in a mess

Comment [b8]: I pretend to not worry, I don't appear to be confused or concerned

Comment [b9]: Friends will have be very involved with whatever I'm doing. Other people will be just as messed up as I am.

Comment [b10]: Do you agree with the reader's interpretation of the poem? Explain your answer.

Comment [b11]: Possible comments: The poet is not talking about cooking or vegetables and fruit that are ready to eat.. Nothing is really boiling over a pan. .No one is in a pool.

Literal Me reads:

I'm cooking when my food is ripe.

Boiling over a veggie stew.

The hot steam's scary, but I don't gripe.

I'm cool in the pool with you.

Literal Me thinks:

If poets used words in ways I know

Their poems would make sense to me

I could imagine. Meaning would flow.

I might learn to like poetry.

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Island Sting
 Figurative Language
 Lesson Plan II
Similes and Metaphors

Refer to page 7 for list of sample similes and metaphors.

1) Activity Introduction- Review similes and metaphors. Refer to poem “Literal Me” if helpful.

- a. Simile - *a figure of speech that expresses a way in which two different things (actions or attributes) are alike. Similes are usually formed with the words 'like' or 'as'.*
- i. Rumors spread like a ball of fire.
 - ii. My mind is working as slow as molasses.
 - iii. The sky is as blue as a robin's egg.
- b. Metaphor – *a figure of speech that compares by showing how two things (actions or attributes) are alike when these things are mostly different. A metaphor often does this by saying one thing is another or by using any other form of the verb to be (am, are, was, were, has been, have been, am being).*

Examples of metaphors:

- i. I am a couch potato.
- ii. Their kids are rug rats.
- iii. She was a road hog.
- iv. Today I am being a slug.

a. *To remember the difference between a simile and a metaphor:*

The word “simile” contains both the letter s (also in the word as) and the letter l (also in the word like). And similes compare by using either the word like or as.

But the word “metaphor” does not contain either the letter s or the letter l.

b. It may be said that a metaphor is an equation (one thing = something else) but a simile is an estimate (one thing is close to being, or similar to, something else).

Figurative Language
Lesson Plan III

Idioms

Refer to pages 8-18 for common English language idioms.

Comment [b12]: Practice with idioms may include:
1. Teams may play a modified game of charades acting out specific idioms.
2. Students may create a new idiom of their own to replace a listed idiom.
3. Individuals may illustrate the literal meaning of idioms.

- 1) Activity Introduction- Review idioms. Refer to poem "Literal Me" if helpful.
- 2) About idioms:
 - a. An "idiom" is an expression or saying that is peculiar to a certain region or language and cannot be understood from the meanings of each separate word in the phrase as in "keep tabs on." (To keep tabs on someone means to carefully watch what that person is doing.)
 - b. An "idiom" is a word or phrase which means something different from what it says.
 - c. It is difficult for people learning a new language to understand idioms used in the new language.
- 3) Examples of idioms:
 - a. Break a leg -A way to wish someone good luck
 - b. Live it up - Live wild, enjoy life, go to a lot of parties
 - c. Kick the bucket - To die
 - d. Shape up or ship out - Used to tell someone that they should leave if they don't improve their behavior or performance.

Review lessons and application of all figurative language skills.

Use quotations from *Island Sting* in several ways. For example:

1. Quotations may be cut apart and drawn by individuals or teams, then identified as simile or metaphor to earn points.
2. Quotations may also be read by teacher or handed out as a worksheet.
3. Students may be asked to locate figurative language in assigned passages from the book. Students copy these passages and identify type of figurative language.

Creative composition:

4. Students choose passages and replace author's figurative language with their own creations.
5. Students choose passages without figurative language and add their own, defending their choice.

Refer to pages 19 – 24 for sample figurative language passages from *Island Sting*. Passages are listed chapter by chapter. Key to page location in novel follows list (p. 25).

Sample Similes and Metaphors

<u>Similes</u>	<u>Metaphors</u>
<p>as dead as a doornail as blind as a mole bold as brass bright as a button brave like a lion busy like a beaver busy as a cat on a hot tin roof clear as a bell clean as a whistle clear as mud common as dirt cool as a cucumber cunning like a fox cute as a cupcake deaf as a post dry like dust/bone easy as pie fit as a fiddle gentle like a lamb hungry as a bear mad as a hornet neat as a pin stubborn like a mule old as the hills/time plain as day snug as a bug in a rug pleased as punch proud as a peacock strong as an ox</p>	<p>My sister is an angel. Your mother is a nag. The puppy is a spinning top. She was a mouse creeping inside. Teddy was a rabbit on the track. My emotions were caged. The election was a battle. The party's a train wreck. Mom's cake's bursting with flavor. Banks are blowing smoke. He has been all talk. There's no substance to the poem. The global economy is in the toilet. My wallet's a skeleton. Her eyes were burning flames. The bed was a cloud of softness. The desert was boiling beneath our feet. I try to be green for the earth. You are the sun in my sky. You are the light in my life. He is a caveman.</p>

SAMPLE IDIOMS WITH MEANINGS

Additional reference: <http://www.idiomsite.com/>

1. A little bird told me

If someone doesn't want to say where they got some information from, they can say that a little bird told them.

2. Albatross around your neck

An albatross around, or round, your neck is a problem resulting from something you did that stops you from being successful.

3. As the crow flies

This idiom is used to describe the shortest possible distance between two places.

4. Back the wrong horse

If you back the wrong horse, you give your support to the losing side in something.

5. Beard the lion in his own den

If you confront a powerful or dangerous rival on their territory, you are bearding the lion in his own den.

6. Beating a dead horse

If someone is trying to convince people to do or feel something without any hope of succeeding, they're beating a dead horse. This is used when someone is trying to raise interest in an issue that no one supports anymore; beating a dead horse will not make it do any more work.

7. Bee in your bonnet

If someone is very excited about something, they have a bee in their bonnet.

8. Bee's Knees

If something is the bee's knees, it's outstanding or the best in its class.

9. Beeline for

If you make a beeline for a place, you head there directly.

10. Between you and me and the cat's whiskers

This idiom is used when telling someone something that you want them to keep secret.

11. Big fish

An important person in a company or an organization is a big fish.

12. Big fish in a small pond

A big fish in a small pond is an important person in a small place or organization.

13. Bird in the hand is worth two in the bush

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush' is a proverb meaning that it is better to have something that is certain than take a risk to get more, where you might lose everything.

14. Bird's eye view

If you have a bird's eye view of something, you can see it perfectly clearly.

15. Bird-brain

Someone who has a bird-brain, or is bird-brained, is stupid.

16. Birds and the bees

If a child is taught about the birds and the bees, they are taught about sex.

17. Birds of a feather flock together

This idiom means that people with similar interests will stick together.

18. Blind as a bat

If you are in total darkness and can't see anything at all or you refuse to see anything, you are as blind as a bat.

19. Bull in a China shop

If someone behaves like a bull in a China shop, they are clumsy when they should be careful.

20. Busy as a beaver

If you're as busy as a beaver, you're extremely busy.

21. By a whisker

If you do something by a whisker, you only just manage to do it and come very near to failing.

22. Call the dogs off

If someone calls off their dogs, they stop attacking or criticizing someone.

23. Can of worms

If an action can create serious problems, it is opening a can of worms.

24. Cast pearls before swine

If you cast pearls before swine, you offer something of value to someone who doesn't appreciate it- 'swine' are 'pigs'.

25. Cat among the pigeons

If something or someone puts, or sets or lets, the cat among the pigeons, they create a disturbance and cause trouble.

26. Cat got your tongue?

If someone asks if the cat has got your tongue, they want to know why you are not speaking when they think you should.

27. Cat nap

If you have a short sleep during the day, you are cat napping.

28. Cat's pajamas

Something that is the cat's pajamas is excellent.

29. Cat's whiskers

Something excellent is the cat's whiskers.

30. Change horses in midstream

If people change horses in midstream, they change plans or leaders when they are in the middle of something, even though it may be very risky to do so.

31. Chicken feed

If something is small or unimportant, especially money, it is chicken feed.

32. Close the stable door after the horse has bolted

If people try to fix something after the problem has occurred, they are trying to close the stable door after the horse has bolted. 'Close the barn door after the horse has bolted' is alternative.

33. Cock and bull story

A cock and bull story is a lie someone tells that is completely unbelievable.

34. Cold fish

A cold fish is a person who doesn't show how they feel.

35. Cold turkey

If someone suddenly stops taking drugs, instead of slowly cutting down, they do cold turkey.

36. Come out of your shell

If someone comes out of their shell, they stop being shy and withdrawn and become more friendly and sociable.

37. Constitution of an ox

If someone has the constitution of an ox, they are less affected than most people by things like tiredness, illness, stress, etc.

38. Cook someone's goose

If you cook someone's goose, you ruin their plans.

39. Could eat a horse

If you are very hungry, you could eat a horse.

40. Crocodile tears

If someone cries crocodile tears, they pretend to be upset or affected by something.

41. Cry wolf

If someone cries wolf, they raise a false alarm about something.

42. Curiosity killed the cat

As cats are naturally curious animals, we use this expression to suggest to people that excessive curiosity is not necessarily a good thing, especially where it is not their business.

43. Cute as a bug

If something is as cute as a bug, it is sweet and endearing.

44. Dark horse

If someone is a dark horse, they are a bit of a mystery.

45. Dead as a dodo

If something's dead as a dodo, it is lifeless and dull. The dodo was a bird that lived the island of Mauritius. It couldn't fly and was hunted to extinction.

46. Dead duck

If something is a dead duck, it is a failure.

47. Dirty dog

A dirty dog is an untrustworthy person.

48. Dog and pony show

A dog and pony show is a presentation or some marketing that has lots of style, but no real content.

49. Dog days

Dog days are very hot summer days.

50. Dog eat dog

In a dog eat dog world, there is intense competition and rivalry, where everybody thinks only of himself or herself.

51. Dog tired

If you are dog tired, you are exhausted.

52. Dog's dinner

Something that is a dog's dinner is a real mess.

53. Dog's life

If some has a dog's life, they have a very unfortunate and wretched life.

54. Dog-eared

If a book is dog-eared, it is in bad condition, with torn pages, etc.

55. Doggy bag

If you ask for a doggy bag in a restaurant, they will pack the food you haven't eaten for you to take home.

56. Don't catch your chickens before they're hatched

This means that you should wait until you know whether something has produced the results you desire, rather than acting beforehand. ('Don't count your chickens until they've hatched' is an alternative.)

57. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth

This means that if you are given something, a present or a chance, you should not waste it by being too critical or examining it too closely.

58. Donkey's years

This idiom means 'a very long time'.

59. Drink like a fish

If someone drinks like a fish, they drink far too much alcohol.

60. Duck to water

If you take to something like a duck to water, you find when you start that you have a natural affinity for it.

61. Ducks in a row

If you have your ducks in a row, you are well-organized.

62. Eager beaver

A person who is extremely keen is an eager beaver.

63. Eagle eyes

Someone who has eagle eyes sees everything; no detail is too small.

64. Early bird catches the worm

The early bird catches the worm means that if you start something early, you stand a better chance of success.

65. Eat crow

If you eat crow, you have to admit that you were wrong about something.

66. Eat like a bird

If someone eats like a bird, they eat very little.

67. Eat like a horse

Someone who eats like a horse eats a lot.

68. Eat like a pig

If some eats like a pig, they either eat too much or they have bad table manners.

69. Elephant in the room

An elephant in the room is a problem that everyone knows very well but no one talks about because it is taboo, embarrassing, etc.

70. Fat cat

A fat cat is a person who makes a lot of money and enjoys a privileged position in society.

71. Feather your own nest

If someone feathers their own nest, they use their position or job for personal gain.

72. Feathers fly

When people are fighting or arguing angrily, we can say that feathers are flying.

73. Fish or cut bait

This idiom is used when you want to tell someone that it is time to take action.

74. Fish out of water

If you are placed in a situation that is completely new to you and confuses you, you are like a fish out of water.

75. Fishy

If there is something fishy about someone or something, there is something suspicious; a feeling that there is something wrong, though it isn't clear what it is.

76. Flogging (or beating) a dead horse

If someone is trying to convince people to do or feel something without any hope of succeeding, they're flogging a dead horse. This is used when someone is trying to raise interest in an issue that no-one supports anymore; beating a dead horse

will not make it do any more work.

77. Fly in the ointment

A fly in the ointment is something that spoils or prevents complete enjoyment of something.

78. Fly on the wall

If you are able to see and hear events as they happen, you are a fly on the wall.

79. Fly the coop

When children leave home to live away from their parents, they fly the coop.

80. From the horse's mouth

If you hear something from the horse's mouth, you hear it directly from the person concerned or responsible.

81. Get your feathers in a bunch

If you get your feathers in a bunch, you get upset or angry about something.

82. Get your goat

If something gets your goat, it annoys you.

83. Go the whole hog

If you go the whole hog, you do something completely or to its limits.

84. Gone fishing

If someone has gone fishing, they are not very aware of what is happening around them.

85. Gone to the dogs

If something has gone to the dogs, it has gone badly wrong and lost all the good things it had.

86. Grab the bulls by its horns

87. Taking a bull by its horns would be the most direct but also the most dangerous way to try to compete with such an animal. When we use the phrase in everyday talk, we mean that the person we are talking about tackles their problems directly and is not worried about any risks involved.

88. Grease monkey

A grease monkey is an idiomatic term for a mechanic.

89. Grin like a Cheshire cat

If someone has a very wide smile, they have a grin like a Cheshire cat.

90. Guinea-pig

If you are a guinea-pig, you take part in an experiment of some sort and are used in the testing.

91. Hangdog expression

A hangdog expression is one where the person's showing their emotions very clearly, maybe a little too clearly for your liking. It's that mixture of misery and self-pity that is similar to a dog when it's trying to get something it wants but daren't take without permission.

92. Hanged for a sheep as a lamb

This is an expression meaning that if you are going to get into trouble for doing something, then you ought to stop worrying and should try to get everything you can before you get caught.

93. Healthy as a horse

If you're as healthy as a horse, you're very healthy.

94. Herding cats

If you have to try to co-ordinate a very difficult situation, where people want to do very different things, you are herding cats.

95. Hold your horses

If someone tells you to hold your horses you are doing something too fast and they would like you to slow down.

96. Hornets' nest

If you stir up a hornets' nest, you do something very controversial that causes a lot of trouble and anger.

97. Horse of a different color

If something is a horse of a different color, it's a different matter or separate issue altogether.

98. Horse trading

Horse trading is an idiom used to describe negotiations, especially where these are difficult and involve a lot of compromise.

99. If wishes were horses, beggars would ride

This means that wishing for something or wanting it is not the same as getting or having it.

100. In the doghouse

If someone is in the doghouse, they are in disgrace and very unpopular at the moment.

101. Juggle frogs

If you are juggling frogs, you are trying to do something very difficult.

102. Kangaroo court

When people take the law into their own hands and form courts that are not legal, these are known as kangaroo court.

103. Keep the wolf at bay

If you keep the wolf at bay, you make enough money to avoid going hungry or falling heavily into debt.

104. Kettle of fish

A pretty or fine kettle of fish is a difficult problem or situation.

105. Kill the goose that lays the golden egg

If you kill the goose that lays the golden egg, you ruin something that is very profitable.

106. Kill two birds with one stone

When you kill two birds with one stone, you resolve two difficulties or matters with a single action.

107. Lame duck

A person or thing that isn't properly able to function, especially one that was previously capable.

108. Leopard can't (doesn't) change its spots

This idiom means that people cannot change basic aspects of their character, especially negative ones.

109. Let sleeping dogs lie

If someone is told to let sleeping dogs lie, it means that they shouldn't disturb a situation as it would result in trouble or complications.

110. Like a beached whale

Once a whale is on a beach, it cannot get back into the easily, so if you are completely stuck somewhere and can't get away, you are stranded like a beached whale.

111. Like a bear with a sore head

If someone's like a bear with a sore head, they complain a lot and are unhappy

about something.

112. Like a cat on hot bricks (or hot tin roof)

If someone is like a cat on hot bricks, they are very nervous or excited.

113. Like a cat that got the cream

If someone looks very pleased with themselves and happy, they look like a cat that got the cream.

114. Like a duck to water

If someone has a natural talent for something and enjoys it, they take to it like a duck to water.

115. Like a fish needs a bicycle

If someone needs something like a Fish Needs a Bicycle, they do not need it at all.

116. Like a fish out of water

If someone feels like a fish out of water, they are very uncomfortable in the situation they are in.

117. Like a headless chicken

If someone rushes about like a headless chicken, they move very fast all over the place, usually without thinking.

118. Like a rat deserting a sinking ship

If people leave a company because they know that it's about to have serious problems, or turn their back on a person about to be in a similar situation, they are said to be like rats deserting a sinking ship.

119. Like lambs to the slaughter

If somebody does something unpleasant without any resistance, they go like lambs to the slaughter.

120. Lion's share

The lion's share of something is the biggest or best part.

121. Loan shark

A loan shark lends money at very high rates of interest.

122. Lock horns

When people lock horns, they argue or fight about something.

123. Lock the stable door after the horse has bolted

If someone takes action too late, they do this; there is no reason to lock an empty stable.

124. Look what the cat dragged in

This idiom is used when someone arrives somewhere looking a mess or flustered and bothered.

125. Mad as a badger

If someone is as mad as a badger, they are crazy.

126. Mad as a hornet

If someone is as mad as a hornet, they are very angry.

127. Mad as a March hare

Someone who is excitable and unpredictable is as mad as a March hare.

128. Make a monkey of someone

If you make a monkey of someone, you make them look foolish.

129. Memory like an elephant

If a person has a memory like an elephant, he or she has a very good memory.

130. Monkey business

If children get up to monkey business, they are behaving naughtily or mischievously. This is the same as 'monkeying around'.

131. More than one way to skin a cat

When people say that there is more than one way to skin a cat, they mean that there are different ways of achieving the same thing.

132. My dogs are barking

When someone says this, they mean that their feet are hurting.

133. Neither fish nor fowl

Something or someone that is neither fish nor fowl doesn't really fit into any one group.

134. Night owl

A night owl is someone who goes to bed very late.

135. No spring chicken

If someone is no spring chicken, they are not young.

136. Not enough room to swing a cat

If a room is very small, you can say that there isn't enough room to swing a cat in it.

137. On the hoof

If you decide something on the hoof, you do it without planning, responding to events as they happen.

138. On your high horse

When someone is on their high horse, they are being inflexible, arrogant and will not make any compromises.

139. One swallow does not make a summer

This means that one good or positive event does not mean that everything is all right.

140. One-trick pony

A one-trick pony is someone who does one thing well, but has limited skills in other areas.

141. Opening a can of worms

If you open a can of worms, you do something that will cause a lot of problems and is, on balance, probably going to cause more trouble than it's worth.

142. Paper tiger

A paper tiger is a person, country, institution, etc, that looks powerful, but is actually weak.

143. Parrot fashion

If you learn something parrot fashion, you learn it word for word, possibly without understanding. A parrot is a bird from South America that can talk.

144. Pecking order

The pecking order is the order of importance or rank.

145. Pig in a poke

If someone buys a pig in a poke, they buy something without checking the condition it was in, usually finding out later that it was defective.

146. Pigs might fly

If you think something will never happen or succeed, you can say that 'pigs might fly' (or 'pigs can fly' and 'pigs will fly' - the idiom is used in many forms)

147. Pup's chance

A pup's chance is no chance.

148. Putting the cart before the horse

When you put the cart before the horse, you are doing something the wrong way round.

149. Quiet as a mouse

If someone's as quiet as a mouse, they make absolutely no noise.

150. Raining cats and dogs

When it is raining cats and dogs, it is raining very heavily.

151. Rat race

The rat race is the ruthless, competitive struggle for success in work, etc.

152. Red herring

If something is a distraction from the real issues, it is a red herring.

153. Sacred cow

Something that is a sacred cow is held in such respect that it cannot be criticized or attacked.

154. Separate the sheep from the goats

If you separate the sheep from the goats, you sort out the good from the bad.

155. Shaggy dog story

A shaggy dog story is a joke which is a long story with a silly end.

156. Shooting fish in a barrel

If something is like shooting fish in a barrel, it is so easy that success is guaranteed.

157. Sick as a dog

If somebody's as sick as a dog, they throw up (=vomit) violently.

158. Sick as a parrot

If someone's sick as a parrot about something, they are unhappy, disappointed or depressed about it.

159. Sitting duck

A sitting duck is something or someone that is easy to criticize or target.

160. Sleep well- don't let the bedbugs bite

This is a way of wishing someone a good night's sleep.

161. Small fry

If someone is small fry, they are unimportant. The term is often used when the police arrest the less important criminals, but are unable to catch the leaders and masterminds.

162. Smell a rat

If you smell a rat, you know instinctively that something is wrong or that someone is lying to you.

163. Snake in the grass

Someone who is a snake in the grass betrays you even though you have trusted them.

164. Snake oil salesperson

A person who promotes something that doesn't work is selling snake oil.

165. Snug as a bug in a rug

If you're as snug as a bug in a rug, you are feeling very comfortable.

166. Sprat to catch a mackerel

If you use a sprat to catch a mackerel, you make a small expenditure or take a small risk in the hope of a much greater gain.

167. Straw that broke the camel's back

The straw that broke the camel's back is the problem that made you lose your temper or the problem that finally brought about the collapse of something.

168. Strong as an ox

Someone who's exceedingly strong physically is said to be as strong as an ox.

169. Stubborn as a mule

Someone who will not listen to other people's advice and won't change their way of doing things is as stubborn as a mule.

170. Swansong

A person's swansong is their final achievement or public appearance.

171. Swim with the fishes

If someone is swimming with the fishes, they are dead, especially if they have been murdered. 'Sleep with the fishes' is an alternative form.

172. Talk the hind legs off a donkey

A person who is excessively or extremely talkative can talk the hind legs off a donkey.

173. Their bark is worse than their bite

If someone's bark is worse than their bite, they get angry and shout and make threats, but don't actually do anything.

174. There are many ways to skin a cat

This is an expression meaning there are many different ways of doing the same thing.

175. Throw someone to the wolves

If someone is thrown to the wolves, they are abandoned and have to face trouble without any support.

176. Top dog

The most important or influential person is the top dog.

177. Ugly duckling

An ugly duckling is a child who shows little promise, but who develops later into a real talent or beauty.

178. Water off a duck's back

If criticism or something similar is like water off a duck's back to somebody, they aren't affected by it in the slightest.

179. What can you expect from a hog but a grunt?

180. This means that you can't expect people to behave in a way that is not in their character- a 'hog' is a 'pig', so an unrefined person can't be expected to behave in a refined way.

181. What's good for the goose is good for the gander

This idiom means that the sexes should be treated the same way and not be subjected to different standards.

182. Which came first the chicken or the egg?

This idiomatic expression is used when it is not clear who or what caused something.

183. While the cat's away, the mouse will play

People whose behavior is strictly controlled go over the top when the authority is not around, which is why most teenagers have parties when their parents have gone on holiday. The parents are the scary authority figures, but the cat's away and the kids are the mice partying and enjoying their freedom.

184. White elephant

A white elephant is something that is large and unwieldy and is either a nuisance or expensive to keep up.

185. Wild goose chase

A wild goose chase is a waste of time- time spent trying to do something unsuccessfully.

186. Wolf in sheep's clothing

A wolf in sheep's clothing is something dangerous that looks quite safe and innocent.

187. Work like a dog

If you work like a dog, you work very hard.

188. World is your oyster

When the world is your oyster, you are getting everything you want from life.

189. Worm information

If you worm information out of somebody, you persuade them to tell you something they wanted to keep from you.

190. Worm's eye view

A worm's eye view of something is the view from below, either physically or socially.

191. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink

This idiom means you can offer something to someone, like good advice, but you cannot make them take it.

192. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear

If something isn't very good to start with, you can't do much to improve it.

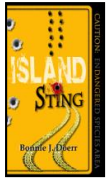
193. You could have knocked me down with a feather

This idiom is used to mean that the person was very shocked or surprised.

ADDITIONAL IDIOMS

Students choose several idioms and discuss what they may mean.

set sights on under your own steam big deal tail between his legs go wild burn your bridges turn the corner ripple of protest bone of contention of own accord eat up a rude awakening feather in your cap bad taste in my mouth roof fell in shake a leg	on short notice one that got away left a bad taste in your mouth get over the hump bring up-to-date play our cards right take a break put my foot down be under foot under fire go through the motions hang out to dry bury the hatchet card carrying member double-edged sword butter up	beehive of activity smoking gun eyes bigger than stomach under wraps flush with success be in a stew when time is ripe knee deep in put a brave face on button your lip that was a close shave butterflies in your stomach put to shame ants in your pants bigger fish to fry
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FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE PASSAGES FROM ISLAND STING

Chapters 1 - 2

1. She grabbed it—a victorious snatch in the playoffs.
2. Satisfied, she hung on, treading water and bobbing like a buoy on a mooring.
3. She swished through the water like a rag mop over a floor, the dog a heavy drag.

Chapter 3

4. I trust him like a barracuda.
5. Hours later, heart beating like a jungle drum, Kenzie awoke.

Chapter 4

6. Anger built like a ticking bomb.
7. Kenzie didn't move, and soon all the deer were dining on tender shrubs in front of her. A scene from *Wild Kingdom*.
8. Beelining toward the main road.
9. Bulldozing through the thicket.
10. High above, the large gray and black winged birds soared in circles, like graceful kites.

11. Like an avenging warrior, she rushed the winged devils that had landed.

12. She stepped long and slow like a child playing *Mother May I* and matched her steps to a reassuring chant.

Chapter 5

13. He rolled it round and round like a ball of clay between his palms.

14. He closed the weight in one fist, then smacked it into his other palm like a baseball in a mitt.

15. While you were busy barfing, Jigs' red runabout flew out of the canal like a wahoo peeling line.

Chapter 6

16. Snaggin' my line.

17. It hung on like mangroves to shores.

18. That's what you're acting like—a nasty, carnivorous shark.

19. If she opened her mouth now, her words would torch him like dragon fire.

20. He grinned like a toddler caught stealing a cookie.

21. The rest is history.

22. Minutes later she rushed into the kitchen, white streaks lining her face and arms like war paint.

Chapter 7

23. I said I'd be grounded if Mom finds out.

24. You blast in like a storm trooper, I'll never find anything.

25. But her eyes flamed.

26. Roared through that field like wildfire.

27. Kenzie slumped on the stool and smashed phone keys like they were offensive ants.

Chapter 8

28. Heart pounding, legs pumping, she propelled her bike with ninth-inning intensity. A runner screaming home in a tie game.

29. She was a panting, gasping, human rat.

30. Your pretty freckled face is one red beet.

31. If she didn't let off steam she'd explode.

32. He was a giant stress sponge.

Chapter 9

33. Kenzie's mom charged down the steps—both barrels loaded—one with panic, the other with anger.

34. And I want to make it to the flea market before it's too hot and crowded. Shake a leg.

35. Before she could respond, he zeroed in on someone behind her.

36. The dark man was lean and solid with the shape of hard work in his muscles—like a sculpture, except for his long gray beard—a living Bronze Man.

37. Wearing his quiet dignity like a protective cloak, he walked away.

Chapter 10

38. Each word a sucker punch.

39. Angelo spoke to his dad, then walked through the gate alone, carrying a little yellow cooler like a prize.

Chapter 11

40. Like sitting in a tree house.

Chapter 12

41. Controlling her bike on the rocky, potholed road was like hanging on to a jackhammer.

42. Lakisha's our anchor.

Chapter 13

43. Fisher laughed, his agile body shaking like a marionette.

Chapter 14

44. He sagged against its trunk—a benched batter after his third strike.

45. Angelo sighed. A final fireworks fizzle.

Chapter 15

46. Time to melt an ice cube.

47. A short while later, Kenzie was clicking keys and sending the mouse flying across the screen like a bat chasing mosquitoes.

48. Her mom—all zoned-out and spacey—grinned at the phone and clicked her fingernails on the countertop, spider-like, closer and closer.

Chapter 16

49. Her mind spun like a carnival target.

Chapter 17

50. That's bee boogers.

Chapter 18

51. I don't buy it.

Chapter 19

52. Cleansing the earth is cleansing to the soul.

Chapter 20

53. Words and ideas flew at Kenzie like wild pitches.

Chapter 21

54. There they dried off, spreading their wings wide like a flock of Batman logos.

55. His pushing pole had four curved prongs on its end. A mutant pitchfork.

56. Mike killed the engine.

Chapter 22

57. Like an irate coach, he flailed his hands in the air, disputing Mike's call.

Chapter 23

58. He slurred and hissed like a wild animal.

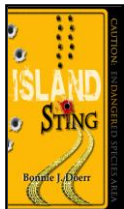
Chapter 24

59. Then it's good you found the best place to keep your cool.

Chapter 25

60. I hope you're as accurate with a ball as you are with a rock.

61. Father Murphy beamed as if he were Santa Claus.



KEY: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE – Passages from *Island Sting*, by Bonnie J. Doerr

m = metaphor s = simile i = idiom

**Can be interpreted two ways. Students should explain both choices and logically support answers. Remind students sometimes the verb is understood and it can make sense to insert more than one verb choice. For exm: He sagged against its trunk— (like or He was) a benched batter after his third strike.*

	<u>Chapters 1 - 2</u>	23.	<u>Chapter 7</u>	46.	<u>Chapter 15</u>
1.	Page 5, m or s *	24.	Page 58, i	47.	Page 145, i
2.	Page 6, s	25.	Page 58, s	48.	Page 150, s
3.	Page 7, s	26.	Page 58, i		Page 152, s
	<u>Chapter 3</u>	27.	Page 50, s		<u>Chapter 16</u>
4.	Page 22, s	28.	Page 60, s	49.	Page 154, s
5.	Page 28, s		<u>Chapter 8</u>		<u>Chapter 17</u>
	<u>Chapter 4</u>	29.	Page 64, m or s*	50.	Page 161, m
6.	Page 30, s	30.	Page 65, m		<u>Chapter 18</u>
7.	Page 34, m or s *	31.	Page 69, m	51.	Page 178, i
8.	Page 34, i	32.	Page 74, i		<u>Chapter 19</u>
9.	Page 34 i	33.	Page 74, m	52.	Page 185, m
10.	Page 37, s		<u>Chapter 9</u>		<u>Chapter 20</u>
11.	Page 38, s	34.	Page 77, i	53.	Page 191, s
12.	Page 38, s	35.	Page 80, i		<u>Chapter 21</u>
	<u>Chapter 5</u>	36.	Page 83, i	54.	Page 201, s
13.	Page 45, s	37.	Page 83, s	55.	Page 206, m or s*
14.	Page 45, s	38.	Page 889, s	56.	Page 207, i
15.	Page 45, s		<u>Chapter 10</u>		<u>Chapter 22</u>
	<u>Chapter 6</u>	39.	Page 92, m or s*	57.	Page 214, s
16.	Page 48, i	40.	Page 98, s		<u>Chapter 23</u>
17.	Page 50, s		<u>Chapter 11</u>	58.	Page 218, s
18.	Page 53, s	41.	Page 103, s		<u>Chapter 24</u>
19.	Page 54, s		<u>Chapter 12</u>	59.	Page 232, i
20.	Page 55, s	42.	Page 111, s		<u>Chapter 25</u>
21.	Page 57, i	43.	Page 117, m	60.	Page 236, s
22.	Page 57, s		<u>Chapter 13</u>	61.	Page 242 s or m*
		44.	Page 129, s		
			<u>Chapter 14</u>		
		45.	Page 139, m or s*		
			Page 140, m or s*		