

Name _____

Date _____

Figurative Language

As you read, you may find many phrases with meanings that are different from the literal, or actual, meanings of the words by themselves. This is called **figurative language**.

Function: Figurative language can help readers visualize, or create a picture of, what is happening in the story. Similes and metaphors are two kinds of figurative language.

Read the paragraph. Then, answer question about the use of figurative language.

The storm raged outside, throwing trees around like matchsticks. Inside the house, Sarah's heart was a drum, pounding louder and louder as the thunder roared. Her little brother, Tim, clung to her arm like a frightened kitten, his wide eyes fixed on the rattling windows. "It's okay," Sarah said, though her voice was as shaky as the leaves caught in the wind.

1. What is the best meaning for the metaphor "**Her heart was a drum**"?

- A. Sarah's heart was making a loud, steady sound.
- B. Sarah's heart was playing music.
- C. Sarah's heart was calm and steady.
- D. Sarah's heart was beating quickly and nervously.

2. What is the best meaning for the simile "**clung to her arm like a frightened kitten**"?

- A. Tim was acting like a kitten.
- B. Tim held onto Sarah tightly because he was scared.
- C. Tim brought a kitten with him.
- D. Tim was pretending to be a kitten.

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Figurative Language – Answer Key

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