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Date _____

Evaluate Figurative Language

Evaluating **figurative language** means analyzing how techniques like metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole create meaning beyond literal interpretation. Readers must identify these devices and assess their effectiveness in creating imagery, conveying emotions, emphasizing ideas, or developing themes. Strong figurative language creates vivid mental pictures, makes abstract concepts concrete, and enriches the reader's understanding and emotional connection.

Read the following descriptive passage and answer the questions.

The Storm Dancer

The thunderstorm was a wild orchestra playing its chaotic symphony outside Nadia's window that night. Rain bullets hammered against the glass, while wind howled like a pack of hungry wolves circling the house. Lightning cracked the sky into jagged pieces, and for brief moments, the darkness was shattered by its electric blue glow.

But Nadia wasn't afraid. To her, storms had always been beautiful dancers—powerful, unpredictable, and completely free. While her younger brother hid under his blankets in the next room, she pressed her palms against the cool window, feeling the vibrations of thunder ripple through her fingertips. The storm was an old friend visiting after a long absence, bringing stories from distant places. Each thunderclap was a secret being whispered just for her,

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if only she could understand its language. The house groaned under the storm's pressure, its wooden bones creaking like an ancient ship battling rough seas.

Her mother appeared at the doorway, a lighthouse of calm in the tumultuous night. "You should be asleep," she said, her voice a gentle stream flowing beneath the storm's rage.

"I can't," Nadia replied, her eyes reflecting the lightning outside. "The storm and I have unfinished conversations." Her mother smiled, understanding flickering across her face like the distant lightning on the horizon. Some people run from storms their whole lives, but Nadia had learned to dance with them instead—finding rhythm in chaos, music in madness, and beauty in nature's wildest moments.

1. Identify three examples of figurative language in the passage and explain what each one compares.

2. How does the figurative language in the first paragraph contribute to the mood of the passage?

3. What does the figurative language reveal about Nadia's character and her relationship with storms?

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Evaluate Figurative Language-Answer Key

1. Identify three examples of figurative language in the passage and explain what each one compares.

- **"Thunderstorm was a wild orchestra" (metaphor): compares storm sounds to musical performance**
- **"Rain bullets hammered against the glass" (metaphor): compares raindrops to bullets**
- **"Her voice a gentle stream" (metaphor): compares mother's voice to flowing water**

2. How does the figurative language in the first paragraph contribute to the mood of the passage?

The figurative language creates a mood of intense drama and power. Comparing rain to "bullets," wind to "hungry wolves," and lightning "cracking" the sky emphasizes the storm's dangerous, wild nature and builds tension.

3. What does the figurative language reveal about Nadia's character and her relationship with storms?

The figurative language shows Nadia sees beauty in danger ("storms had always been beautiful dancers") and finds meaning in what others fear. She has a unique perspective, seeing storms as friends bringing "stories" rather than threats.