

Literary Analysis

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Figurative language is language that communicates ideas beyond the literal meanings of words. This chart shows four common figures of speech. Poets use these techniques to describe abstract concepts or to create images that are clear, effective, and fresh.

Figure of Speech	Definition	Examples
simile	compares two things using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i>	Our love is like a burning flame. Our love is as solid as steel.
metaphor	compares two things without using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i>	Our love is the calm after a storm.
personification	gives human qualities to an object, animal, or idea	Love winks at us and smiles.
hyperbole	exaggerates something for emphasis or comic effect	We have loved each other for centuries.

Directions: Complete this chart to analyze figurative language in Browning’s poetry. Record at least one example of each figure of speech and tell what idea is communicated by each example.

Figurative Language	Example	Idea That Is Communicated
simile		
metaphor		
personification		
hyperbole		