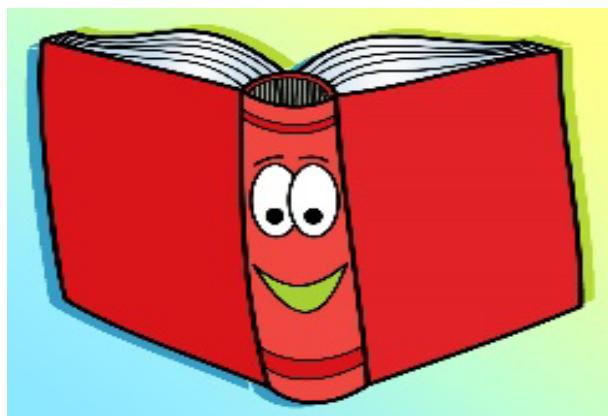


If you only have 15 minutes ...

Words have tremendous power. Whether spoken or written, they can incite people to action and evoke many emotions. Therefore, the choice of words is and should be a calculated, carefully crafted process. Consider two figures of speech employed in the process of communication, the metaphor and the idiom.

- A metaphor is a statement of comparison between two things that does not use the words "like" or "as". For example, "She is an open book." This statement doesn't imply that she is a book personified but



rather that she has nothing to hide. Other common metaphors are, "He has a heart of gold," or "She is such a couch potato".

- Personification is a specific type of metaphor that compares an inanimate object to a person. By giving the non-living thing human characteristics, the vivid description serves to evoke an emotional connection within the reader and simultaneously become more invested and connected with the story or information provided within the writing. Some examples are, "The trees danced in the wind," or "The sun smiled down upon us with love and warmth."

- An idiom is a phrase or saying that has a different meaning than its literal meaning, especially perplexing when learning a new language. For example, "It's raining cats and dogs," doesn't mean that animals are falling from clouds in the sky. It whimsically



portrays the concept that it is pouring down rain. Other common idioms are, "The early bird gets the worm," and "Curiosity killed the cat".

- Read through the article carefully and find at least three examples of metaphors or idioms within the text.
- Identify each statement as a metaphor or idiom
- Briefly explain the author's intended meaning for each metaphor and idiom that you find.¹

Example From Text	Metaphor or Idiom?	Intended Meaning

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.L.3 Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading and listening.

CCRA.L.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

CCRA.R.4 Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

1 Answers may vary. See possible answers below.

Example From Text	Metaphor or Idiom?	Intended Meaning
People spoke about how the “ <i>Old Man</i> ” had fallen.	Metaphor-personification.	The original bridge was destroyed in the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia. The people referred to it endearingly as the Old Man, even connecting it as an important ancestor upon which the culture was built and depended.
Many recalled how the “ <i>drops of blood</i> ” during the bridge’s destruction oozed out of the ruins.	Metaphor-personification	The seeping of red mortar used for waterproofing looked as if the bridge was bleeding further exemplifying that the people were emotionally connected with the bridge as an ancestor.
But <i>that sense of peace</i> was shattered during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia, following the breakup of Yugoslavia.	Metaphor	Breaking of something physical, like shattered glass, is compared to the outbreak of chaos in war.
<i>The city’s fabric</i> is woven into every piece, culture and heritage are inseparable from the towering arch that transcends the Neretva River.	Metaphor	The culture and heritage of the people of Mostar is compared to a cloth. Like a quilt, the fabric of Mostar is sewn together with the Old Bridge.
Even in the <i>depth of winter</i> , they delight the ever-increasing numbers of tourists and locals who wait in anticipation of a jump.	Idiom	The depth of winter refers to the middle of winter season, when temperatures and weather are at the most extreme.

<p>The loss of the bridge <i>extinguished any semblance of hope</i> in the population that had endured months of shelling and killing.</p>	<p>Idiom</p>	<p>There is no hope or possibility of a positive consequence.</p>
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