

UNDERSTANDING IMAGINATIVE WRITING

NAME _____ SCHOOL _____

DATE STARTED _____ DATE COMPLETED _____

PREREQUISITE: Can read at a late eighth-grade/early ninth-grade level.

HOW TO DO THIS COURSE: Do the steps one at a time, in order. When you finish a step, put your initials and the date on the sign-off line on the right. A split line means to get a pass (and an initial) from another student (or your Academic Supervisor if it says that). All written work is to be turned in to the Academic Supervisor.

PURPOSE: Improve your ability to read and understand imaginative writing.

ESTIMATED TIME: 4–6 hours.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THIS COURSE _____

Study booklet, *Understanding Imaginative Writing*, with these data sheets (DS):

7217

7218

7220

7219

7221

NOTES TO ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR _____

1. In this course, the Academic Supervisor's role regarding the student's written work is to ensure it is done fully. Imaginative writing does not always have one "right" understanding. If a student's answer shows a *workable understanding* of an imaginative passage, it is not the supervisor's job to adjudicate whether that interpretation is "right" or not.
2. Additional practical applications for more advanced readers are included at the end of DS #7221 Practical Applications for Understanding Imaginative Writing.

A. IMAGINATIVE WRITING DEFINED

1. DEFINE: describe _____
2. READ: DS #7217 Two Different Ways to Describe Things, to heading "Imaginative Description." _____
3. DEMONSTRATE: "In a literal statement words and phrases are used in their plainest or most ordinary senses. The purpose is to describe exactly what is there, leaving little or nothing to the imagination." _____
4. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Write down five literal statements. _____
5. READ: DS #7217, section "Imaginative Description." _____
6. DEMONSTRATE: Find three imaginative descriptions in a reading book and read them to someone out loud. _____
7. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Write an imaginative description at least three sentences long, or write three imaginative descriptions one sentence each. _____

8. DEMONSTRATE: Show “imagery.” **Supervisor pass.**

B. FIGURATIVE EXPRESSION

1. READ: DS #7218 More About Imagery, to the heading “Figurative Expression.”

2. DEMONSTRATE: Show a figure of speech.

3. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Think of, make up or find ten figures of speech that you feel certain fit the definition. Pick the three you like best and explain to someone what each means, first literally and then as a figure of speech.

4. READ: DS #7218, section “Figurative Expression.”

5. DEMONSTRATE: Show figurative expression. **Supervisor pass.**

6. READ: DS #7218, section “Why Write Figuratively?”

7. PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

a) Find a short figurative description that you like in a reading book, and copy it down. Underneath it, write out what it says in literal terms. Then rewrite that into a figurative description of your own. _____

b) Write up what you observed from doing this. Include any advantages you noticed of using literal language, and any advantages of using figurative. _____

8. READ: DS #7218, section “How Figurative Expression Works,” first paragraph.

9. DRILL: Do Drill #1 in DS #7220 Drills for Understanding Imaginative Writing.

10. READ: DS #7218 More About Imagery, section “How Figurative Expression Works,” the rest of the data sheet.

11. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Choose a particular incident from your life, or make one up. Write a description of the incident, using at least ten instances of figurative expression. Underline each one.

12. DRILL: Following are some short passages containing figurative expressions. Copy them over and underline the figurative part(s) of each passage. Then explain in writing what each passage is saying.

a) “The cannons rattled the very constellations.” (*Bull Run*) _____

- b) "The sunrise reached out luminous fingers and covered the earth with brightness." (*The Yearling*) ____
- c) "Both boys looked up, silver-faced, for the moon was rising." (*Something Wicked This Way Comes*) ____
- d) "At sunrise, suddenly, the porch was bats; a thousand bats were hanging from the rafter." (*The Bat-Poet*) ____
- e) "A hot spring day, noon, and there you are chained to your school desk." (*Something Wicked This Way Comes*) ____
- f) "A vast chandelier of stars sparkled overhead, while up from the waters the moon was emerging." (*Saturnalia*) ____

Supervisor pass. _____

C. TYPES OF FIGURATIVE EXPRESSION

1. READ: DS #7219 Types of Figurative Expression, to the heading "Simile." _____
2. DRILL: Make up and write down five overstatements. Underneath each, write what it means. _____
3. DRILL: Work out and write down the point you think the speaker of each of these overstatements wants to get across.
 - a) "Your lullaby would waken a drunken goblin!" (*The Hobbit*) ____
 - b) "In this fog? I'd need two hands and a lantern to find me own nose." (*The Whipping Boy*) ____
 - c) "Maiden, these have been the sweetest days of my life; and when I am well enough to ride from here, I shall leave all joy behind me unless you promise me what I ask." (*The Sword and the Circle*) ____
4. READ: DS #7219, section "Simile." _____
5. DEMONSTRATE: Show what a simile is. **Supervisor pass.** _____
6. DEMONSTRATE: Locate five similes in books on your reading level. _____
7. DRILL: Choose five of the following, create a simile using each and write it down. (You may add words at the beginning as well as the end.)

bold like	seems	
twisted as though	gloomy as	
as filthy as	a mouth like	
wetter than	quiet, as though	_____

8. DRILL: Do Drill #2 in DS #7220 Drills for Understanding Imaginative Writing. _____
9. READ: DS #7219 Types of Figurative Expression, section “Metaphor.” _____
10. DEMONSTRATE: Show what a metaphor is. **Supervisor pass.** _____
11. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Explain fully what each metaphor in the poem by Langston Hughes (quoted in the data sheet) is saying. _____
12. DRILL: Do Drill #3 in DS #7220 Drills for Understanding Imaginative Writing. _____
13. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Explain the difference between a simile and a metaphor. Give several examples showing the difference. _____
14. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Choose five of the following and create and write down a metaphor using each. Then choose three of the remaining ones and create and write down a simile using each.

a window	black velvet
the wind	an oasis
a rushing river	a burning candle
fog	a slug
ice	racing

15. DRILL: Do Drill #4 in DS #7220 Drills for Understanding Imaginative Writing. _____
16. READ: DS #7219 Types of Figurative Expression, section “Personification.” _____
17. DEMONSTRATE: Show what personification is. **Supervisor pass.** _____
18. DEMONSTRATE: Find a personification in a book on your level. _____
19. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Choose two animals or objects that are very familiar to you and write a personification for each. _____
20. READ: DS #7219, sections “Allusion” and “Irony.” _____
21. DEMONSTRATE: Show what irony is. **Supervisor pass.** _____
22. DEMONSTRATE: Make up two examples of irony and say them to someone. Notice what clues you give the other person that you are using irony. _____

23. DEMONSTRATE: Create two written examples of irony. Show them to someone. See if the person gets the irony from the written passage alone. _____
24. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Explain what ironic means and give three of your own examples of ironic situations. _____

D. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. READ: DS #7221 Practical Applications for Understanding Imaginative Writing to heading “Practical Application #1, Set A.” _____
2. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Do Practical Application #1, Set A from DS #7221. **Supervisor pass.** _____
3. (Optional) PRACTICAL APPLICATION: If needed per the instructions at the top of DS #7221, do Practical Application #1, Set B. **Supervisor pass.** _____
4. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Do Practical Application #2, Set A from DS #7221. **Supervisor pass.** _____
5. (Optional) PRACTICAL APPLICATION: If needed per the instructions at the top of DS #7221, do Practical Application #2, Set B. **Supervisor pass.** _____
6. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Do Practical Application #3, Set A from DS #7221. **Supervisor pass.** _____
7. (Optional) PRACTICAL APPLICATION: If needed per the instructions at the top of DS #7221, do Practical Application #3, Set B. **Supervisor pass.** _____

E. FINAL APPLICATION SECTION

1. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Explain what each of the following passages is saying. (Note: If this practical application is too hard, see your supervisor for review instructions, then do more drilling using the B sets from DS #7221. Then come back to this step.)
 - a) “Smith was now very close to being able to read. His long battle was nearly won. Great pages of print that scarce four weeks ago had seemed no more than a mad patterning of the paper, now spoke haltingly to him—even told stories—as if long-dead gentlemen woke up under his struggling eyes, buttonholed his mind, and breathed their thoughts and dreams into it. Gentlemen who were dead and dust a thousand years stirred and shifted and began to live their lives again.” (Smith) _____

- b) “Jody was addled with April. He was dizzy with Spring. He was as drunk as Lem Forrester on a Saturday night. His head was swimming with the strong brew made up of the sun and the air and the thin gray rain. He pictured old Slewfoot, the great black outlaw bear with one toe missing, rearing up in his winter bed and tasting the soft air and smelling the moonlight, as he, Jody, smelled and tasted them. He went to bed in a fever and could not sleep. A mark was on him from the day’s delight, so that all his life, when April was a thin green and the flavor of rain was on his tongue, an old wound would throb and a nostalgia would fill him for something he could not quite remember.”
(*The Yearling*, Chapter 1) ____

Supervisor pass. _____

I have completed the steps of this course. I understand what I studied and can use it.

Student _____ Date _____

The student has completed the steps of this course and knows and can apply what was studied.

Academic Supervisor _____ Date _____

The student has completed the steps of this course.

Examiner _____ Date _____