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Figurative Language

Hyperbole Reference Notebook

When a writer uses **figurative language**, they want to appeal to the reader's **senses, imagination** or **sense of humour**. The meaning of a figurative language phrase goes **beyond the literal meaning** of each individual word.

Song lyrics are a great place to find figurative language. Can you find the examples of **HYPERBOLE** in this song excerpt?

Cut out around the edges of the box and glue the song into your book.

Highlight each **HYPERBOLE** you find and explain what it really means.

"I'm only me"

by Taylor Swift (excerpt)

Friday night beneath the stars,
in a field behind your yard,
you and I are paintin' pictures in the sky.

Everything I need is right here by my side.
And I know everything about you
I don't wanna live without you.

Well you drive me crazy half the time;
the other half I'm only trying to let you
know that what I feel is true.
And I'm only me when I'm with you.

And you know everything about me.
You say that you can't live without me.



Now cut out this quick reference guide to HYPERBOLE and glue it into your book to remind you how this type of figurative language works.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is the trick of **exaggerating** a situation, action or feeling by using **extreme language**. Hyperbole can intensify the image created in the reader's mind.

Hyperbole can make a point in a **humorous** way. For example:

I've told you a million times; don't exaggerate!

It's so cold today even the polar bears are wearing gloves!

The hyperbolic expression has to be something which is **not literally possible**. For example:

Our teacher gave us a ton of holiday homework.

The new boy in our class is as skinny as a rake!

Hyperbole is often used in **advertising** – to persuade someone that this product is **the best**. For example:

“Red Bull gives you wings!”

“The happiest place on Earth”



Answers:

“I'm only me”

Make a quick list of all the things you need in life (food, somewhere to sleep...). Can they actually all be right here? The person makes the singer feel that s/he can provide whatever the singer needs in life.

for Swift (exc) We can know a lot about someone, but do you really think we can know every single thing? They are so close in front of you that the singer feels s/he knows lots of secrets about the other person.

Everything I need is right here by my side.
And I know everything about you
I don't wanna live without

Other people are frustrating!
The singer means s/he gets annoyed with the other person, but s/he's not really going insane.

When people are in love they often feel that life is no fun or it's less important when the other person isn't there. They don't really think they're going to die.

Well you drive me crazy half the time
the other half I'm only trying to
know that what I feel is true

I'm only me when I'm with you.

Each person is always 'himself/herself' – how could they possibly be anyone else?
The singer feels that the other person brings out all the singer's best or most honest features.

... you know everything about me.
... say that you can't live without me.