

**Strategic Thinking:**

1. Authors and poets like to use figurative language in order to make writing more interesting and/or to create mental pictures for the reader.
2. Instead of reading the words "literally," it may be helpful to ask yourself what idea or image the author was trying to get across to you when they used the figurative expression.
3. Eliminate the wrong or goofy answers before you select the correct answer.

1 Read this sentence.

Mom and Dad left us at home to hold down the fort when they went next door to play cards with the neighbors.

This sentence contains an example of which type of figurative language?

- (A) idiom
- (B) personification
- (C) metaphor
- (D) simile

2 Which sentence contains an example of figurative language?

- (A) She's as sweet as a kitten.
- (B) The old clock needs replaced.
- (C) The bird built a beautiful nest.
- (D) The new school bus looks great.

3 Read this sentence.

After the death of Natalie's favorite aunt, her heart became stone.

The author used the figurative expression her heart became stone to communicate that

- (A) Natalie experienced heart pains after her aunt's death.
- (B) Natalie needed to be rushed into immediate heart surgery.
- (C) Natalie was sad and didn't want to be close to anybody anymore.
- (D) Natalie was anxious about her aunt's funeral.

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4 Read these sentences.

No matter how hard I tried, I just couldn't hit a homerun. The outfield fence just stood there and laughed.

The author used the figurative language stood there and laughed in order to show that

- (A) the outfield fence was mean.
- (B) the outfield fence didn't like the batter.
- (C) nobody ever hits homeruns on this field.
- (D) hitting a homerun would be very difficult.

5 Read this sentence.

Nothing on my car works well because it's a dinosaur.

The author used the phrase it's a dinosaur to show that

- (A) the car is ugly.
- (B) the car is old.
- (C) the car looks like a dinosaur.
- (D) the car gets poor mileage.



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1	A
2	C
3	D
4	B
5	A

SAMPLE