



Figurative Language: City at Night

Mission: The poetry slam judges want to know how "City at Night" creates its mood. Identify each type of figurative language, explain what it means, and analyze how it affects tone.

Big question: How does figurative language shape meaning and tone in a poem?

★ Warm-up: Picture it

Describe what you picture.

"The wind howled." ✓ **A loud, wild wind (personification).**

"My room is a disaster zone." ✓ **A very messy room (metaphor).**

Key vocabulary

Mood	The feeling a reader gets from a text.
Tone	The author's attitude.
Imagery	Language that appeals to the senses.
Extended metaphor	A comparison carried through several lines.

1 Box 1

Tag the poem

In the simulator: Tag all five figurative lines correctly.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Extended metaphor

The "giant" appears at the beginning and end of the poem. What is this?

☐ An extended metaphor comparing the city to a living giant ☐ A simile ☐ A character in a story

✓ **An extended metaphor comparing the city to a living giant**

3 Box 3

Interpret

Interpret two lines.

"The skyscrapers shoulder their way to the clouds"

Look for: Explains the image; at least 10 words

"I'm on cloud nine"

Look for: Explains the idiom; at least 6 words

4 Box 4

Tone shift

How does the tone shift at the end of the poem?

☐ From loud and busy to calm and peaceful ☐ From happy to angry ☐ It doesn't change

✓ **From loud and busy to calm and peaceful**

5 Box 5

Analyze the effect (CER)

How does figurative language create the tone of "City at Night"?

Claim

Look for: Describes the tone; at least 10 words

Evidence

Look for: an exact quote from the text (2 quotes); at least 8 words

Reasoning

Look for: Explains the effect; at least 14 words

6 Box 6

Legend: your stanza 🏆 Legend only

Write a 4-line stanza about Sunnyside at sunrise that continues the giant metaphor.

Look for: Continues the metaphor; at least 20 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How does figurative language shape meaning and tone in a poem?

Look for: Figurative language creates images and feelings. Calling the city "a restless giant" (metaphor) and saying skyscrapers "shoulder their way" (personification) make the city seem alive and powerful; the soft ending shifts the tone to calm and peaceful.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
🗺 Explorer	1VH-E
🔍 Investigator	182-I
🏆 Legend	1B2-L

 Watch for these misconceptions

- "Synonyms can always be swapped." Connotation changes the meaning and tone.
- "Tone and mood are the same." Tone is the author's attitude; mood is how the reader feels.
- "Figurative language is only in poems." It appears in all kinds of writing, even news.