

*MOBY DICK* by Herman Melville – Grammar and Style

EXERCISE 9            STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words or phrases as:

personification = p

simile = s

metaphor = m

onomatopoeia = o

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1.     Posted like silver sentinels all around the town, stand thousands upon thousands of mortal men fixed in ocean reveries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2.     The chaplain had not yet arrived; and there these silent islands of men and women sat steadfastly eyeing several marble tablets, with black borders, masoned into the wall on either side the pulpit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3.     Yes, the world's a ship on its passage out, and not a voyage complete; and the pulpit is its prow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4.     “Crack, crack, old ship! so long as thou crackest, thou holdest!”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5.     But Faith, like a jackal, feeds among the tombs, and even from these dead doubts she gathers her most vital hope.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6.     The long rows of teeth on the bulwarks glistened in the moonlight; and like the white ivory tusks of some huge elephant, vast curving icicles depended from the bow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7.     . . . for a whale-ship was my Yale College and my Harvard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8.     That immaculate manliness we feel within ourselves, so far within us, that it remains intact though all the outer character seem gone; bleeds with keenest anguish at the undraped spectacle of valor-ruined man.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9.     Nor can piety itself, at such a shameful sight, completely stifle her upbraidings against the permitting stars.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10.    When close to the whale, in the very death-lock of the fight, he handled his un pitying lance coolly and off-handedly, as a whistling tinker his hammer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11.    As a carpenter's nails are divided into wrought nails and cut nails, so mankind may be similarly divided.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12.    Daggoo retained all his barbaric virtues, and erect as a giraffe, moved about the decks in all the pomp of six feet five in his socks.

*MOBY DICK* by Herman Melville – Grammar and Style

EXERCISE 9            STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- \_\_\_\_\_ 13.    The starred and stately nights seemed haughty dames in jeweled velvets, nursing at home in lonely pride, the memory of their absent conquering Earls, the golden helmeted suns!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14.    The warmly cool, clear, ringing, perfumed, overflowing, redundant days, were as crystal goblets of Persian sherbet, heaped up – flaked up, with rose-water snow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15.    Over his ivory-inlaid table, Ahab presided like a mute, maned sea-lion on the white coral beach, surrounded by his warlike but still deferential cubs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16.    He lived in the world, as the last of the Grisly Bears lived in settled Missouri.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17.    “D’ye mark him, Flask?” whispered Stubb; “the chick that’s in him pecks the shell. T’will soon be out.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18.    “Ha! ha! ha! ha! hem! clear my throat! – I’ve been thinking over it ever since, and that ha, ha’s the final consequence.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19.    And then it was, that suddenly sweeping his sickle-shaped lower jaw beneath him, Moby Dick had reaped away Ahab’s leg, as a mower a blade of grass in the field.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20.    After the ceremony was concluded upon the present occasion, I felt all the easier; a stone was rolled away from my heart.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21.    And heaved and heaved, still unrestingly heaved the black sea, as if its vast tides were a conscience; and the great mundane soul were in anguish and remorse for the long sin and suffering it had bred.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22.    . . . he steadfastly looked into the mate’s malignant eye and perceived the stacks of powder-casks heaped up in him and the slow-match silently burning along towards them . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23.    Panting and snorting like a mad battle steed that has lost its rider, the masterless ocean overruns the globe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24.    For as this appalling ocean surrounds the verdant land, so in the soul of man there lies one insular Tahiti, full of peace and joy, but encompassed by all the horrors of the half known life.