

Worksheet 1 – Getting Even Figurative Language

"No Simon, the whole scheme. The Avengers. There's something Faustian about that. You know what I mean, don't you?" (Faust was the guy who sold his soul to the Devil. It was a corny metaphor, but I could see what she was driving at.)

A *metaphor* is a type of **figurative language** that makes a comparison between two things. When authors are creating texts, they often use figurative language to express their ideas in a creative and humorous way. Other types of figurative language are **similes**, which make a direct comparison using the words *like* or *as* (e.g. *Mr Foster is shaped like a doughnut*) and **personification**, which is when non-human things are given human qualities (e.g. *I watched the clock creep round towards lunchtime.*)

Task 1: Match up these examples of figurative language from the story *Getting Even* by rewriting them correctly.

It was their word against mine	like a battleship.
The principal	and he advanced on me with a terrible eye.
Afterwards it was red, white and green	that I watched the clock creep round towards lunchtime.
They were the ones responsible	was icy.
He bore down on me again	like he was about to explode.
In the deathly silence, a giant gurgle rang out	his piggy eyes narrowing with pleasure surrounded by the flock of scavengers, eager for blood.
I headed off to period 6	at a snail's pace.
The corridors	with a heavy heart.
It was with a sinking heart	and who would believe such a set of clowns?
History ticked by	I couldn't afford.
With monotonous regularity he would bear down on them	like those modern paintings that insist on making a statement about how hopeless life is.
"Now look here, young man..."	were filled with a buzz.
Foster's face was red	for things turning sour.
Confession was a luxury	like all the dunnies in the school flushing at once.

Task 2: Choose five complete sentences from the boxes above and explain how the author used figurative language to make a comparison (some use more than one).

Extension Activity

- Research the classic German legend of Faust. Who is he? What prompts him to make a deal with the devil? When was this legend written? How has this legend been performed over the years and what other literary and artistic works did it inspire? What is the adjective *faustian* used to describe?