

Lesson 7: The Storm

☐ Getting Started

In today's chapters, the environment of the ocean changes drastically and so does the environment on board the ship.

Ideas to Think About

- How does the environment affect people's emotions?
- How do challenging circumstances change people?

Things to Know

- A **simile** is comparison between two seemingly unrelated subjects, using the words "like" or "as."
- **Personification** is when a writer gives inanimate objects, ideas, or animals human characteristics.

☐ Reading and Questions

Read Chapters 36-50 and then answer the following questions in complete sentences:

1. How has the environment outside the boat changed?

2. How has the environment on the boat changed?

3. What happened to the sails of the boat?

4. Do you think it was selfish of Sophie not to want to take the helm? Why or why not?

Remember to fill out your "Character Timelines" sheet for these chapters.

Activities

☐ Activity 1: Identifying Voice

Remember that voice is what gives writing a personality and what distinguishes it from what others have written. The author, Sharon Creech, gives each of the characters in the novel his or her own distinguishable voice. You can identify the characters' personalities through their thoughts and actions.

On page 1 of the "Identifying Voice" activity, read each quote from the novel and decide if it written in the voice of Sophie, Cody, or Brian.

On page 2 of the activity, read the scenario and decide how the three characters would respond to the given situation. For each character, write a quote the character might say and what his or her thoughts or actions might be.

☐ Activity 2: Similes and Personification

The author of *The Wanderer* uses different language techniques to describe the ocean in creative ways to help the reader feel its power, force, and beauty. Figurative language is a writing technique that creates images in the mind of the reader.

Personification and **similes** are two common examples of figurative language techniques.

- A simile is a comparison between two seemingly unrelated subjects that uses "like" or "as." *The boy sneaking around the house was like a fox.*
- Personification is when a writer gives inanimate objects, ideas, or animals human characteristics. *The flowers danced in the breeze.*

Ask your parent which "Similes and Personification" sheet to complete.

Option 1

On this page, you will find quotes from the novel. Identify each quote as either personification or a simile. If it is personification, record what is being personified and what the human characteristics are. If it is a simile, record the two things being compared. At the bottom of the page, you will describe the ocean using similes and personification.

Option 2

Practice using figurative language in your own writing. Write about your favorite nature spot to visit; be sure to use similes and personification in the passage.

Wrapping Up

Review the definitions of simile and personification and how a writer can use them to make effective descriptions that create images in the reader's mind.

Life Application

Look through some of your favorite books and see if you can identify any similes or personification.

Identifying Voice

Directions: Identify the thoughts and quotes from the novel as belonging to Brian, Sophie, or Cody. Cut them apart and paste them in the correct box for the character.

Brian



Cody



Sophie



--	--	--

"Here's the list. I figure we will also need a list of the equipment we will need."

"Ahoy! Blast Off!"

"I love to see the dolphins. I feel as if they are messengers for me."

"And which mother are you talking about, anyway?"

"But if you think about it – if you conquered the thing that I scared you the most, then maybe you'd feel – I don't know – you'd feel free or something."

"It's a cute little peep, isn't it?"

"Maybe we have entered some kind of weird place where the seas always rage and the wind always howls, and maybe we are going in circles and will never escape and eventually we will die of hunger."

Identifying Voice

Directions: You have gotten to know the three main characters pretty well as you have read much of the novel. Authors create characters by describing their thoughts, words, and actions in the story.

You have been presented with a situation that could occur on their voyage across the ocean. You will write one quote and one or two sentences that describe what the character's thoughts and actions would be in the situation.

Scenario:

The crew sees an unidentifiable ship coming from the opposite direction. Keep in mind the personality of the characters and the voice that Cody and Sophie express through their journals.

Sophie

Quote: _____

Thoughts/Actions: _____

Cody

Quote: _____

Thoughts/Actions: _____

Brian

Quote: _____

Thoughts/Actions: _____

Similes & Personification



Directions: Identify each quote as a simile or personification. If it is a simile describe what two things are being compared. If it is personification describe what is being personified and what human attributes are given to it.

QUOTE	SIMILE OR PERSONIFICATION	EXPLANATION
"The waves are more fierce, cresting and toppling over like leering drooling monsters spewing heavy streaks of foam through the air."		
"Sometimes it [sea] is calm and smooth, as if it were asleep; and sometimes it is playful, splashing and rolling; and sometimes it is angry and Knocks us about."		
"We're [the crew] like wee grains of sand out here, surrounded by a tremendous energy that could pulverize us into a zillion atoms."		
"It [sun] wrapped us all in the most brilliant light..."		
"I [Sophie] was on my back, like a turtle, arms and legs flailing for something to grab onto."		

Write two similes that could describe the ocean.

Record two sentences that personify the ocean.

1. _____

2. _____

1. _____

2. _____

Directions: In a paragraph, describe your favorite natural place to visit. It may be a campground, a hiking trail, a waterfall, or a beach. It needs to be a place where you have spent a lot of time so that you are very familiar with it. Be sure to use similes and personification in your paragraph.

A black anchor icon is positioned in the bottom right corner of the page. The anchor is stylized with a central shank, a crown at the top, and two flukes. The entire page is filled with horizontal lines, and the anchor is placed on one of the lines near the right margin.

Lesson 7: The Storm

Getting Started

✿ Ideas to Think About

- How does the environment affect people's emotions?
- How do challenging circumstances change people?

📖 Things to Know

- A **simile** is comparison between two seemingly unrelated subjects, using the words "like" or "as."
- **Personification** is when a writer gives inanimate objects, ideas, or animals human characteristics.

🕒 Skills

- Explain and evaluate relationships that are temporal. (LA)
- Analyze word choice using critical and evaluative processes. (LA)
- Determine the impact of word choice on written and spoken language. (LA)
- Determine the effect of literary devices on the reader. (LA)
- Increase fluency, comprehension, and insight by reading and discussing literature. (LA)
- Discuss and analyze the effects of figurative language. (LA)
- Understand and explain the figurative and metaphorical use of words in context. (LA)

Introducing the Lesson

Ask your child to describe the voyage up to this point and the relationships among the characters. Explain that in today's reading, serious changes begin to occur.

Reading and Questions

1. *The seas are rough and frightening with ferocious waves and wind.*
2. *Everyone is working together to keep the boat afloat. The crew is scared but is being kind to one another and working well together.*
3. *The wind ripped them.*
4. *Answers will vary.*

Activities

Activity 1: Identifying Voice

Use the answer key to check your child's answers. Encourage your child to share the sentences he developed.

Answer Key: Identifying Voice (Page 1)	
Brian	"Here's the list. I figure we will also need a list of the equipment we will need." "And which mother are you talking about, anyway?"
Cody	"Ahoy! Blast Off!" "It's a cute little peep, isn't it?" "Maybe we have entered some kind of weird place where the seas always rage and the wind always howls, and maybe we are going in large circles and will never escape and eventually we will die of hunger." "But if you think about it - if you conquered the thing that scared you the most, then maybe you'd feel - I don't know - you'd feel free or something."
Sophie	"I love to see the dolphins. I feel as if they are messengers for me."

Answer Key: Identifying Voice (Page 2)

The answers for page 2 should reflect the general personality of the character. Answers will vary, but Sophie's quote should be thoughtful, introspective, insightful, and maybe even poetic. Her response might include repetitive phrases like "the sea, the sea, the sea" or "the ship, the ship, we see a ship." Cody's response might include words like "thingy" and "sail-a-ma-jig." His response will probably be joking and energetic, trying to make light of the situation even if he is a bit worried about the ship. Brian's response will be very analytical. He might immediately begin making a list of things to do or notice something specific about the ship. He will probably also be worried about the other ship's intentions.

Activity 2: Similes and Personification

Select either Option 1 or 2 for your child. Option 1 requires the child to identify the use of personification and similes in the book and then use personification and similes in sentences about the ocean. Option 2 is more advanced and requires the child to use personification and similes to describe his or her favorite natural place.

Option 1

Answer Key: Similes and Personification (Option 1)

"The waves are more fierce, cresting and toppling over like leering drooling monsters spewing heavy streaks of foam through the air." — simile comparing the waves to monsters

"Sometimes it [sea] is calm and smooth, as if it were asleep; and sometimes it is playful, splashing and rolling; and sometimes it angry and knocks us about." — personification, the sea is given the characteristics of being playful and angry

"We're [the crew] like wee grains of sand out here, surrounded by a tremendous energy that could pulverize us into a zillion atoms." — simile comparing the crew to grains of sand

"It [sun] wrapped us all in the most brilliant light..." — personification, the sun wrapping something

"I [Sophie] was on my back, like a turtle, arms and legs flailing for something to grab onto." — simile comparing Sophie's position on her back to a turtle turned over on its shell.

Option 2

Check your child's writing to be sure he used similes and personification.

Wrapping Up**Questions to Discuss**

- What do you think Sophie's story might be?
- If you were in a life-threatening situation like the crew of The Wanderer, would you wish you had lived differently in any way?
- How would you describe "The Wave"?

Things to Review

Review similes and personification and how the figurative language techniques can make writing more interesting, effective, and meaningful.