

Analysis of Figurative Language

In



“Mr. Grinch”



For Middle School ELA



ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans



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Procedures

1. Give out the chart (handout 1) with some of the words listed from the song. Do not mention to the students that you will be using the song “Mr. Grinch”. Tell them to write down what comes to their minds after reading each word in the chart. Give them about five minutes to complete this.
2. Once everyone has had time to complete the chart, ask for volunteers to read some of the words that they wrote in the chart. You should notice that a lot of negative things are written.
3. Ask them to describe some words that describe Christmas or Christmas songs. Ask them if they think any of the words in the chart would be in a Christmas song. Some students may think of the Grinch at this point.
5. Give out the simile/metaphor chart provided in the packet. Play the song and have the students complete the chart as they listen for the figurative language in the song.
4. After listening, give the students lyrics for “Mr. Grinch”. Due to copyright, a copy of the lyrics cannot be provided in this packet, but it’s easy to find a printable on the Internet.
5. Give out the handout title *Mr. Grinch Analysis*. You can have students complete this with a partner or individually.
6. Give out the handout title *Similes and Metaphors*. Have students explain each simile and metaphor. Next, students will try their own similes and a metaphor about Mr. Grinch. Encourage them to be creative.

What Comes to Mind?

Name _____

Date _____

In the chart below, write down whatever comes to mind when you read each word or set of words. Write down descriptions and or feelings you have when you read each one.

Cactus	Eel	Greasy	Dead tomato	Arsenic	Dump heap	Skunk	Unwashed socks



What do you find in common with all of these words?

Which words from the chart could be categorized as something to do with filth?

Which words from the chart could be categorized as something poisonous or toxic?



“Mr. Grinch”

Listen to the song. Each time you hear a simile, put a mark under simile, and each time you hear a metaphor, put a mark under metaphor.

Simile 	Metaphor 

Mr. Grinch”

Listen to the song. Each time you hear a simile, put a mark under simile, and each time you hear a metaphor, put a mark under metaphor.

Simile 	Metaphor 

The Grinch Song Analysis

Name _____

Date _____

You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch
You really are a heel,
You're as cuddly as a cactus, you're as charming as an eel, Mr. Grinch,
You're a bad banana with a greasy black peel!

Figurative Language	Simile or metaphor?	Explain meaning/why comparisons were chosen

You're a monster, Mr. Grinch,
Your heart's an empty hole,
Your brain is full of spiders, you have garlic in your soul, Mr. Grinch.
I wouldn't touch you with a thirty-nine-and-a-half foot pole!

Underline the two metaphors in this stanza.

You're a vile one, Mr. Grinch,
You have termites in your smile,
You have all the tender sweetness of a seasick crocodile, Mr. Grinch.
Given a choice between the two of you, I'd take the seasick crocodile

What is meant by the underlined portion of this stanza?

You're a foul one, Mr. Grinch.
You're a nasty, wasty skunk.
Your heart is full of unwashed socks
Your soul is full of gunk.
Mr. Grinch.

Underline the metaphor in this stanza.

Is *wasty* a real word? _____ Why is it included? _____

Look back at your chart. What did you write under "unwashed socks"? What does this say about Grinch's heart?

You're a rotter, Mr. Grinch.
You're the king of sinful sots.
Your heart's a dead tomato splotched
With moldy purple spots,
Mr. Grinch

Look at the underlined portion of this stanza. Is this a simile or metaphor? _____

Look back at your chart. List two words that you write down *under dead tomato*.

What makes this metaphor an effective way to describe Mr. Grinch's heart?

Your soul is an appalling dump heap overflowing
With the most disgraceful assortment of deplorable
Rubbish imaginable,
Mangled up in tangled up knots.

Underline the metaphor in this stanza.

What is rubbish? _____

You nauseate me, Mr. Grinch.
With a nauseous super-naus.
You're a crooked jerky jockey
And you drive a crooked hoss.
Mr. Grinch

Did you know that the word *hoss* here means horse? It is misspelled on purpose for the purpose of rhyme.
Underline the metaphor in this line.

What does it mean? _____

You're a three decker sauerkraut and toadstool sandwich
With arsenic sauce!

The direct translation of sauerkraut is sour cabbage. A toadstool is a poisonous mushroom. Arsenic is a poisonous chemical. The song ends with this very powerful, horrible metaphor to describe the Grinch. Try coming up with your own metaphor. Let's see with what vile thing you can compare the Grinch. Keep it appropriate for school! 😊

You're a _____ and _____
with _____

Similes and Metaphors in Mr. Grinch

Name _____

Date _____

Read each simile or metaphor from the song. Explain what each means. Then, try writing your own in the same fashion. Be creative!

You're as cuddly as a cactus.

You're as charming as an eel.

You're a bad banana with a greasy black peel.

Can you be as creative as Dr. Seuss? Try writing your own similes and metaphors for the Grinch. For the similes, try writing them in the same way as the ones in the song, by using a comparison to something that is the opposite of what most would consider cuddly or charming.

You're as cuddly as _____.

You're as charming as _____.

You're a _____.

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