

Name:
Class Period:
Date:



House on Mango Street : Literary Devices – Practice

Imagery

“...Rachel and Lucy who have the same fat popsicle lips like everybody else in their family” (17).

“We have legs. Skinny and spotted with satin scars where scabs were picked, but legs... good to look at, and long” (40).”

“Your little lemon yellow shoes are so beautiful” (41).

1. Describe a piece of clothing using imagery:

Example: Your giant sparkling silver earrings are so lovely.

Your _____ are so _____.

Simile:

“His feet were fat and doughy like thick tamales...” (39).

“The grandma’s feet were lovely as pink pearls...” (39).

2. Describe someone’s feet using a simile:

Example: His feet are stinky and hairy like a dirty brown sweater.

_____ feet are _____ and _____ like _____.

Metaphor:

“Down to the corner where the men can’t take their eyes off us. We must be Christmas” (40).

3. Describe yourself using a metaphor:

Example: I am standing in front of so many hopeful, eager faces. I am the Statue of Liberty.

I _____

Personification:

The trees “grab the earth between their hairy toes and bite the sky with violent teeth and never quit their anger” (74).

4. Personify a book:

Example: The book is mocking me, daring me to try and understand the words that fill its cruel pages.

The book _____

Repetition:

“All were little. Their arms were little, and their hands were little...” (39).

“I hold my Papa in my arms. I hold and hold and hold him” (57).

5. Write a sentence about **an action that** contains repetition:

Example: I was jumping higher than a kangaroo, jumping, and jumping, and jumping.

I was _____.

Alliteration:

“...only one mother who is tired all the time from buttoning and bottling and babying...” (29)

6. Write a sentence about **being tired** that contains alliteration:

Example: I was tired from all of the waiting, and watching, and working.

I was tired from all of the _____, and _____, and _____.

Anaphora:

“They think we’re dangerous. They think we will attack them with shiny knives. They are stupid people ...” (28)

7. Write three short sentences about **students** using anaphora:

Example: Teachers are waiting. Teachers are watching out of the door. Teachers wait for their coffee.

Onomatopoeia:

“...Nenny jumps in across from me, the rope tick-ticking...” (52).

8. Write a sentence about **the noise in the hallways during passing period** that contains an onomatopoeia:

Example: I heard the wood break with a loud “crack!”

In the halls _____.

Symbolism:

“Meme has a dog with gray eyes, a sheepdog with two names, one in English and one in Spanish” (21).

**The dogs with two names is symbolic of the fact that Meme has two cultures: American and Mexican.*

9. What could you use as a symbol for sadness?

Example: A dusty, broken doll is my sadness. It symbolizes sadness because it is broken, so no one will play with it, and that is why it is dusty and unwanted.

The symbol: _____

Why: _____