

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This lesson will help you to:

- understand how to identify figurative language
- consider how figurative language is used for effect in creating character, atmosphere and emotion.

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Figurative language is used to create powerful imagery in texts. It can be used by writers or poets to create atmosphere, mood, tone and emotion, or to add to readers' understanding or to descriptions of character or setting.

Figurative language works by making comparisons between two things. It therefore provides the reader with a strong visual image to identify with. The most common figurative techniques are **metaphor**, **simile** and **personification**.

### SUBJECT VOCABULARY

**metaphor** describing something by comparing it to an image which it resembles, in a way that says the object *is* the image

**simile** a description that says that an object is *like* an image rather than that *it is* the image

**personification** when something which is not human is made to sound human by attributing human qualities to it

### ACTIVITY 1

A04

SKILLS ANALYSIS, INNOVATION

### ▼ USING FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Look at the photos and write your own figurative descriptions of each. For example: *The amber flames leapt and danced*. 'Leapt' and 'danced' are personification, emphasising the active nature of the fire and likening it to a person dancing. *The beach was like a white ribbon of paper*. This simile conveys the colour and shape of the beach.



### FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN POETRY

The following poems are excellent examples of how metaphor can be used in poetry.