**FIGURATIVE vs. LITERAL LANGUAGE**

Literal Language is true to fact. It uses words in accordance with their actual (literal) meanings.

**Example:**My dog is a carnivore.

**Figurativelanguage** makes comparisons between unrelated things or ideas, in order to show something about a subject.

**Example:**In the kitchen, when I cook, my dog is a tap dancer.

#### Three Kinds of Figurative Language

* **Metaphor**(Greek): means, literally, transference. The writer transfers qualities of one thing to another thing. A metaphor has two parts: A = B: something issomething else. The B part, the something else, shows how the poet feels about or perceives the A part.

**Example:**

Thumb  
The odd, friendless boy raised by four aunts.  
~ Philip Dacey

* **Simile**(from the Latin similes: similar): a kind of metaphor that uses likeor asto compare two things: A is like B.  
  **Example:**

Thunder threatens  
Like a sound that rolls around and around  
In a mean dog’s throat.  
~ Martha Sherwood

* + **Personification**(from the Greek prósopa, meaning “face” or “mask”): a metaphor that gives human or physical qualities to an object, animal, or idea.
  + **Example:**“The yellow fog that rubs its back upon the window-panes” ~ T. S. Eliot