 **Of Mice and Men Chapter 5**

**Figurative language Study Guide**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_\_

Figurative language is a type of descriptive language that an author uses to communicate and convey vivid images, sights, sounds, and other sensory detail to the reader. It is intended to encourage the reader to use his/her imagination and to make the story more emotionally intense, exciting and realistic.

There are many types of figurative language. I will present five of the most common kinds here, using examples from, “The Outsiders,” by SE Hinton and Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare.

**SIMILE-** A simile compares one thing to another using the words “like” or “as”.

For Example: I told you he **(Soda)** ***looks* *like*** **a movie star**, and he

kind of radiates

But most (Soc’s) looked at us ***as if*** **we** were **dirt**.

Soda **attracted girls *like* honey attracted flies**

**METAPHOR-** A metaphorcompares two things without using the words like or as. A metaphor states that something IS something else and often uses the verb to be.

For Example: **Johnny** still reminded me of a **lost puppy**

**Tim** had the tense, hungry look of **an alley cat**

**PERSONIFICATION-** Personification gives human characteristics or abilities to something that is not human, such as animals, plants, or inanimate objects.

(Remembering this term is easy because when we describe an object as if it were a person we are using personification.)

For example: There was a silent moment when everything held its breath!

**Love *enfolded*** us in ***her arms***.

The **wind *whispered*** your name.

And even as the policemen's **guns *spit*** fire into the night,

Dally raised his gun.

**HYPERBOLE-** Hyperbole expresses an obvious exaggeration.

ForExample: I couldn’t have gotten up to save my life

Two bit’s mom let him get away with murder

Dally handed me a shirt about sixty-million sizes too big.

**SYNECDOCHE:** The part represents the whole.

For Example: Your new car is a nice set of wheels (Are only the wheels nice?)

All hands on deck (Not only the hands, but the whole body comes on deck)

**OXYMORON:** A literary device of two words which seems to contradict itself because it expresses opposite concepts. It usually makes sense if you think about it. If a phrase like this is more than two consecutive words it becomes a **PARADOX**

For Example: His eyes were blue, **blaz­ing ice**

“Oh **Happy Dagger**!” (When Juliet is about to commit suicide to

join Romeo)

“Parting is such **sweet sorrow** (When Romeo leaves Juliet after the famous

Act II balcony scene).

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**Please identify the following phrases in Chapter 5 as a Simile (S), Metaphor (M), Personification (P), and Hyperbole (H), or Synecdoche (SYN). For extra credit, correct the grammar mistakes**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_\_

1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) The afternoon sun sliced in through the cracks of the barn walls and lay in bright lines on the hay.

2) \_\_\_\_\_ But in the barn it was quiet and humming and lazy and warm.

3) \_\_\_\_\_ There was the buzz of flies in the air, the lazy afternoon humming.

4) \_\_\_\_\_ Her face was made-up and the little sausage curls were all in place.

5) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ And then her words tumbled out in a passion of communication, as though she hurried before her listener could be taken away.

6) \_\_\_\_\_ Her face grew angry. “Wha’s the matter with me?” she cried. “Ain’t I got a right to talk to nobody?

7) \_\_\_\_\_ Now the light was lifting as the sun went down, and the sun streaks climbed up the wall and fell over the feeding racks and over the heads of the horses.

8) \_\_\_\_\_ She looked up at Lennie, and she made a small grand gesture with her arm and hand to show that she could act. The fingers trailed after her leading wrist, and her little finger stuck out grandly from the rest.

9) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Curley’s wife laughed at him. “You’re nuts,” she said. “But you’re a kinda nice fella. Jus’ like a big baby. But a person can see kinda what you mean.

10) \_\_\_\_\_ “Take Curley. His hair is jus’ like wire. But mine is soft and fine. ‘Course I brush it a lot.

11) \_\_\_\_\_ And she continued to struggle, and her eyes were wild with terror. He shook her then, and he was angry with her.

12) \_\_\_\_\_ “Don’t you go yellin,” he said, and he shook her; and her body flopped like a fish. And then she was still, for Lennie had broken her neck.

13) \_\_\_\_\_ He pawed up the hay until it partly covered her.

14) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ As happens sometimes, a moment settled and hovered and remained for

much more than a moment. And sound stopped and movement stopped for much, much more than a moment.

15) \_\_\_\_\_ Then gradually time awakened again and moved sluggishly on.

16) \_\_\_\_\_ But the barn was alive now.

17) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ And finally, when he stood up, slowly and stiffly, his face was as hard and tight as wood, and his eyes were hard.

18) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Then Slim went quietly over to her, and he felt her wrist. One lean finger

touched her cheek, and then his hand went under her slightly twisted neck and

his fingers explored her neck.

19) \_\_\_\_\_ When he stood up the men crowded near and the spell was broken.

20) \_\_\_\_\_ The men raced around the last stall. Their eyes found Curley’s wife in the gloom, they stopped and stood still and looked.

21) \_\_\_\_\_ From outside came the clang of a ­­horseshoe on metal, and then a chorus of cheers. “Somebody made a ringer!”