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Lesson Five

FOCUS: Figurative Language

Writers commonly use stylistic devices. Such tools allow readers to visualize events, whether through an unexpected image, an idea, or an observation. Some common examples of figurative language are image, simile, and metaphor. Use these terms to identify the novel's figurative language to expand the meaning of the novel.

Image: a vivid representation or description.

Simile: a comparison between two things using “like” or “as.”

Metaphor: when two unrelated things are compared so as to underscore their similarities.

Discussion Activities

Divide the class into groups. Assign each group a chapter (1-4), asking them to identify figurative language used in that chapter. They should specifically identify images, similes, and metaphors. In those chapters, how does the figurative language assist in telling the story? Have groups present their findings to the class.

Writing Exercise

Have students pick literary terms out of a hat. Students write a sentence that reflects the literary technique. Have students read the sentence and the rest of the class must identify what technique the student was attempting to master.

Have students write a few paragraphs telling a story about an important childhood event. In their story, students should use image, simile, and metaphor at least twice. Can they see how developing figurative language in a story contributes to the artistry of the novel?

Homework

Read Chapter 5 (pp. 81-96). Students should find examples of one (or two) of the literary techniques discussed in class. They should be ready to present them to begin the discussion.