

# **Literal vs. Nonliteral Language**

## **Standard Description**

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

## **Lesson Objectives**

1. Understand the difference between literal and nonliteral language.
2. Identify examples of both in a given text.
3. Practice interpreting figurative language.

## **Activities**

1. Read the provided passage and underline examples of nonliteral language.
2. Discuss as a class: What do these phrases mean literally and figuratively?
3. Complete the worksheet with exercises on identifying and interpreting nonliteral phrases.

## Reading Passage

The classroom was a zoo during free time, with students laughing, shouting, and darting around like animals. Desks were being rearranged to create imaginary forts, while others played games that filled the air with excitement. The teacher, Ms. Lopez, had to raise her voice above the noise to restore order. 'Alright, everyone, it's time to settle down,' she said, clapping her hands. Despite the chaos, the students were clearly enjoying themselves. Ms. Lopez couldn't help but smile, recalling her own childhood and how free time felt like an adventure. 'Free time is a storm,' she joked, watching the whirlwind of activity. As the minutes ticked away, the energy in the room began to fade. When the bell rang, the classroom transformed back into a calm space, as if the storm had passed. The students returned to their desks, carrying with them the excitement of their mini-adventures.

## Worksheet

1. What does the phrase 'The classroom was a zoo' mean?
2. What is the literal meaning of 'Free time is a storm'?
3. Write your own sentence using nonliteral language.
4. Identify two more examples of figurative language in the passage.