

Pearl - A Caribbean Story

Types of Figurative Language Used

PERSONIFICATION

The giving of human characteristics to non-human things.

Example: Omar stood frozen to the spot, **his very shadow seeming to cringe** with the crash of the lamp as it hit his sister's lifeless hand and fell to the floor.

REPETITION

A word or phrase used multiple times to create emphasis.

Example: While she had been grating sweet potato, seasoning sweet potato and boiling sweet potato, Annie had been grating cucumber and squeezing lime and chopping pigtail, pig ears, pig foot, and all the other parts of the pig that people were always complaining there was never enough of...

HYPERBOLE

A statement of exaggeration, used to infer significance of meaning.

Example: as Omar walked into the sunset, the **fine hairs on his arms caught fire**.

SIMILIE

The use of 'like' or 'as', to compare one thing with another.

Example: The steps of the house were worn, **smooth like a baby's bottom** in some places and splintered in others.

METAPHOR

A symbolic comparison between two things. It describes something as other than how it actually appears:

Example: The once brilliant sun was suddenly **cloaked in a blanket of cloud** so thick it seemed night would never again see day.

IDIOM

A phrase where the meaning derived should not be interpreted as literal.

Example: Loretta Walcott was tired as a dog.

JUXTAPOSITION

The act of placing two ideas together for a contrasting effect.

Example: The **sweet smell of rum** from an uncapped bottle was strong in the room. The familiar smell, **which in the past had brought him comfort, now suffocated him.**