

Word Salad

THIRD GRADE

So many colorful phrases are “rooted” in the garden. In this activity, students will talk about the difference between literal and figurative language. Students will explore the garden using their senses and come up with their own garden-inspired similes.

SUBJECT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ARTS

TIME

30 MIN

MATERIALS

Clipboards, 1 per student

Pencils, 1 per student

Garden Similes worksheet, 1
per student

Crayons or markers, several
to share

Lined paper to write stories
(optional)

DIRECTIONS

- Lead a discussion with students about figurative language and literal language. Ask if they know what the word literal means. Explain that literal means something that is real and accurate. Non-fiction writing is literal. Do they know what the word figurative means? What are their ideas? Figurative is different from literal because it uses words to describe things in a way that is not real. Usually, writers use figurative language to make their writing more interesting. An example of figurative language is the saying: That spelling test was as easy as pie. What does the spelling test have to do with pie? It really means that the spelling test was very easy.
- This type of figurative language is called a simile. Similes make comparisons using the words **like** or **as**. For example, the cloud is as puffy as a pillow.
- Explain to students that they will explore the garden and create their own similes. To give the activity a little more structure, students will use four of their senses to describe things in the garden: touch, smell, sound, and sight. Give an example: The leaves of the plant are as soft as a kitten.
- Hand out clipboards, pencils, and the Garden Similes worksheet and send students to explore the garden for inspiration using their senses.
- Extension: Ask students to write a short story using some of their garden-inspired similes.

SOURCE

- BCK Programs



Garden Similes

Example:

The flowers smell **as** sweet as a lollipop.

Circle either the word "like" or "as."

1. The _____ smells (like/as) _____

_____.

2. The _____ looks (like/as) _____

_____.

3. The _____ feels (like/as) _____

_____.

4. The _____ sounds (like/as) _____

_____.

5. Write your own garden simile:

—

_____.

6. Draw pictures of your similes on the back of this paper.

