

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT #3

The following excerpts from literary texts contain different types of figurative language. For each excerpt, identify whether the writer uses **verbal irony, pun, allusion (mythological, literary, or biblical), or personification**. Explain how the figurative language is used to develop meaning in the excerpt.

- ① “Mine is a long and a sad tale!” said the Mouse, turning to Alice and sighing.
 “It is a long tail, certainly,” said Alice, looking down with wonder at the Mouse’s tail; “but why do you call it sad?”
 And she kept on puzzling about it while the Mouse was speaking.
 – Adapted from Lewis Carroll, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*

Type of figurative language:	How it is used: _____ _____ _____
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- ② A chill wind was blowing that nipped him sharply and bit with especial venom into his wounded shoulder. He lay down on the snow and attempted to sleep, but the frost soon drove him shivering to his feet.
 – Adapted from Jack London, *The Call of the Wild*

Type of figurative language:	How it is used: _____ _____ _____
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- ③ “Shouldn’t someone give a pep talk or something?” Minho asked...
 “Go ahead,” Newt replied.
 Minho nodded and faced the crowd. “Be careful,” he said dryly. “Don’t die.”
 Thomas would have laughed if he could, but he was too scared for it to come out.
 “Great. We’re all inspired,” Newt answered.
 – Adapted from James Dashner, *The Maze Runner*, Copyright 2009 by James Dashner

Type of figurative language:	How it is used: _____ _____ _____
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- ④ I walked as solitary as Adam before the creation of Eve.
 – Adapted from Avi, *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*, Copyright 2002 by Avi

Type of figurative language:	How it is used: _____ _____ _____
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Keep going! Identify whether the writer uses **verbal irony, pun, allusion (mythological, literary, or biblical), or personification**. Explain how the figurative language is used to develop meaning in the excerpt.

- 5 Mercutio: *[after being mortally wounded in a battle]*
Ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find me a grave man.

– Adapted from William Shakespeare, *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*

Type of figurative language:	How it is used: _____ _____ _____
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- 6 There were only a few people, and these moved more rapidly, as if the film had been sped up. One white-faced man in a dark suit looked directly at the children, said, “Oh dear, I shall be late,” and flickered into the building. “He’s like the white rabbit,” Meg giggled nervously.

– Adapted from Madeleine L’Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*, Copyright 1962 by Crosswicks

Type of figurative language:	How it is used: _____ _____ _____
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- 7 “Yes, you are now rich—quite an heiress.”
Silence followed...
“You unbend your forehead at last,” said Mr. Rivers. “I thought Medusa had looked at you, and that you were turning to stone. Perhaps now you will ask me how much you are worth?”

– Adapted from Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*

Type of figurative language:	How it is used: _____ _____ _____
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- 8 “It’s lovely in the woods now. All the little wood things—the ferns and the satin leaves and the crackerberries—have gone to sleep, just as if somebody had tucked them away until spring under a blanket of leaves.”

– Adapted from Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Type of figurative language:	How it is used: _____ _____ _____
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