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LA 7 - #1

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If an author wants their book to be fully understood and examined more carefully then they must use figurative language. If the book is written with many similes, metaphors, personification, etc, the reader is able to picture the setting of the book and see how the characters look and how the events appear. The author, Gary Paulsen, used figurative language throughout the book and really made it interesting. There is not one page without an example. It really helps the reader know what’s happening and how it’s happening.

An alliteration is a repeated consonant sounds that occurs at the beginning of words or within words. An example of alliteration in the book is when the narrator is meeting the Larson’s for the first time and he is explaining his “dourty peectures.” “In higher circles the pictures would be known as artistic anatomical studies, but the man who sold them to me called them ‘dourty peectures,’ which seemed far more accurate.” (6) The two words with the same consonants are artistic and anatomical. The author’s intention for this is to call attention to these words. It helps to look at it more carefully.

A personification is giving non-human things human traits. On example of this is when the deputy is driving the narrator to the Larson’s house through the thick woods. “The road grew more narrow, closed in until it nearly disappeared ahead of the car, and just when it seemed the car would have to dive into the trees, the deputy hung a left and the car bounced as we turned onto a dirt road – or, more accurately, a set of ruts.” (3-4) Of course, the car would not actually be able to dive in to the trees; only a human could; therefore this is an example of personification.

A simile is a comparison of two unlike things using the word like or as. An example of this is when Louie is eating at breakfast and the narrator admires him. “Before the plate hit the table, Louie leaned forward like a snake striking and hit the stack of pancakes with his fork.” (16) The author is comparing Louie and how he moves as fast as a snake. It helps picture the speed of Louie’s eating technique.