

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## CHRISTMAS-THemed ELA ACTIVITIES

figurative language, rhetoric, theme, and novel activities



### Teacher Guide Page Christmas Songs Theme And

#### Overview

This activity uses music with Christmas vibes to help students practice the analysis. Students will listen to short clips from a curated list of songs and then analyze them.

Disclaimer: I just play music in my classroom.

Why This Activity? Music plays a big role in our lives, and analyzing songs can be a fun way to practice critical thinking skills.

Instructions: 1. Listen to the song clip. 2. Discuss the lyrics and the mood of the song. 3. Write a short paragraph about the song's theme and figurative language.

### rheticor TERMS

#### Rhetorical ANALYSIS



**Definition:** A reason or set of reasons given with the aim of persuading others that an action or idea is right or wrong.

**Example:** Alyssa wrote a paper, and her argument was that Martin Luther King was better at encouraging change during the Civil Rights Movement, than Malcolm X.



### Teacher Guide Page: Christmas Commercial Mood and Tone

#### Overview

This activity uses Christmas commercials to teach students about mood and tone.

Disclaimer: I just play commercials in my classroom.

Why This Activity? Commercials are a great way to introduce students to mood and tone in a fun and engaging way.

Instructions: 1. Watch the commercial. 2. Discuss the mood and tone of the commercial. 3. Write a short paragraph about the commercial's theme and figurative language.



### Teacher Guide Page: Christmas Commercial Rhetorical Appeals

#### Overview

This activity uses Christmas commercials to teach students about rhetorical appeals.

Disclaimer: I just play commercials in my classroom.

Why This Activity? Commercials are a great way to introduce students to rhetorical appeals in a fun and engaging way.

Instructions: 1. Watch the commercial. 2. Discuss the rhetorical appeals used in the commercial. 3. Write a short paragraph about the commercial's theme and figurative language.

### MOOD AND TONE

The author's attitude toward a subject



### Teacher Guide Page Christmas Figurative Language

#### Overview

This activity helps students review and practice identifying types of figurative language in a Christmas-themed context. Students will use a reference chart and apply their knowledge to sentences that include idioms, similes, metaphors, hyperboles, personification, irony, and more.

#### Why This Activity?

Middle schoolers often recognize figurative language when they hear it in conversation, songs, or commercials, but they struggle to label and explain it. This activity gives them seasonal, high-interest examples and plenty of practice selecting definitions with real usage.

#### WORDS

Amused	Nauseated
Annoyed	Nervous
Awful	Ominous
Bored	Optimistic
Calm	Painful
Caring	Passionate
Cautious	Peaceful
Charming	Pessimistic
Cheerful	Playful
Cold	Relaxed

### Figurative LANGUAGE



**Definition:** Compares two unlike things using "like" or "as."

**Example:** The Christmas lights twinkled like stars scattered across the night sky.

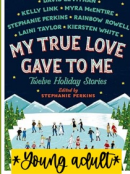
**Definition:** Comparing two things that are not alike to suggest they have something in common.

**Example:** The cafeteria was Santa's workshop, buzzing with holiday energy.

**Definition:** an exaggeration that can't possibly be true.

### CHRISTMAS STORY

would you rather read...



Stephanie Perkins

If you love holiday stories, holiday movies, made-for-TV holiday specials, holiday episodes of your favorite sitcoms, and, especially, if you love holiday anthologies, you're going to fall in love with *My True Love Gave to Me*. Twelve Holiday Stories by twelve bestselling young adult writers (Holly Black, Ally Carter, Matt de la Peña, Gayle Forman, Jenny Han, David Levithan, Kelly Link, Myra McEntire, Rainbow Rowell, Stephanie Perkins, Laini Taylor, and Kersten White), edited by the international bestselling



John Green and Lauren Myracle

An ill-fated storm on Christmas Eve buries the residents of Graceland under multiple feet of snow and causes quite a bit of chaos. One brave soul ventures out into the storm from her stranded train, setting off a chain of events that will change quite a few lives. Over the next three days one girl takes a risky shortcut with an adorable stranger, three friends set out to win a race to the Warfield House (and the fate of a teacup pig falls into the hands of a loveless barista.

A trio of today's bestselling authors—John Green, Maureen Johnson, and Lauren Myracle—brings all the magic of the holidays to life in three hilarious and charming interconnected tales of love, romance, and kisses that will steal your breath away.

### CHRISTMAS STORY

would you rather read...



Rick Scroogeman

Rick Scroogeman hates Christmas. He can't stand the carols and the pageants. He can't stand the lights and the mistletoe. But what he hates the most is having to watch the old movie *A Christmas Carol* every year of school. Since his name is Scroogeman, all of his classmates start calling him Scrooge. And he hates being called Scrooge.

But everything starts to change when three ghosts visit him. At first, he thinks it's a dream. But then he realizes that it might be a nightmare. A nightmare that could become real.



Cindy Callaghan

Imagine you're a tween visiting a small town that loves nothing more than its prize—a perfect Christmas tree destined for the White House. Now picture yourself accidentally destroying that tree, making you public enemy number one. Lastly, imagine that to repay your debt, you have to remain in said town for the season.

holidays-festooned town for couldn't be more depressed during her month there, she much more than pine need town holding her captive. In Harper Hollow Falls reminds true meaning of Christmas—turn, saves the town.



PRINT AND DIGITAL



# A MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA



## CHRISTMAS ELA ACTIVITIES BUNDLE

This engaging seasonal unit gives students multiple ways to practice key ELA skills while keeping them hooked with Christmas season-themed texts, songs, and activities. With teacher guides, scaffolded practice, and ready-to-go student pages, you'll have everything you need to bring a little Christmas season energy into your classroom—without sacrificing depth or rigor.



**Christmas Word Search** (color + black-and-white with answer key)



**Figurative Language Activity** with Teacher guide, reference chart, student practice pages, and answer key.



**Christmas TV Commercials: Rhetorical Appeals** with Teacher guide, curated video links, reference pages (ethos, pathos, logos), and student analysis worksheets



**Christmas Songs Theme/Main Idea** with Teacher guide, curated playlist, and student lyric/theme analysis sheets



**Christmas Novel “Would You Rather Read...” Activity** with Teacher guide + slides and student response

# Christmas season-themed ELA activities bundle

This bundle of Christmas-themed activities helps middle schoolers practice figurative language, rhetoric, theme, and independent reading skills, while keeping them engaged with seasonal texts, commercials, songs, and novels. With teacher guides, reference charts, and scaffolded practice, you'll have everything you need to make Christmas time both academic and fun.

## ✨ Here's what they'll learn:

- **Figurative Language Foundations:** Identify, explain, and create similes, metaphors, idioms, personification, irony, and more in Christmas-themed sentences.
- **Rhetorical Appeals in Media:** Analyze how ethos, pathos, and logos are used in Christmas commercials to persuade audiences.
- **Theme Through Music:** Listen to Christmas season songs across genres and analyze lyrics for theme, imagery, and tone.
- **Independent Reading Choices:** Explore novels through "Would You Rather" activities that get students thinking critically about genre, plot, and style.

## 📖 Why this works:

Instead of random holiday worksheets, these activities combine seasonal engagement with real ELA skill-building. Students move from surface-level responses to deeper analysis using high-interest media and texts they can relate to. With built-in teacher guides, reference pages, and answer keys, you can run these activities with confidence and keep the rigor high—even during busy Christmas-time weeks.

## 💡 Perfect for:

- Teachers who want seasonal activities that *still hit standards*
- Students who need engaging, high-interest practice to stay motivated during Christmas season
- Any middle school ELA class looking to weave seasonal fun into figurative language, media analysis, and theme work

# Teachers like you have said...



This resource cost me money! **After reading this, the students couldn't wait to read some of these novels.** I had a bunch in my library, but I ordered the rest quickly. When they came, my students couldn't wait to get their hands on the new books! That made my teacher heart happy!"  
– Kingdom A.



My kids loved using this resource for their school day. **They were engaged in the resource and had no trouble getting started. It didn't take a lot of time to prepare this resource, so it was easy for to use quickly.** –Shannon H.



**I love all of Martina's things! I bought this because my students loved the similar packet she made with Valentines English activities** - I especially love the pick a book activity :) –Literary Jane



**"I love all of Martina's resources,** so when I heard she was making a Halloween DIGITAL activity, I had to jump on it! This was perfect for my students to do remotely. **They got to choose which activities they wanted to do, so I love the variety. Plus, most of these topics were already covered in class (thanks to her other units), so I didn't have to reteach anything!"**  
–Christian B.



**My students loved the "would you rather" horror book activity!** Many of them found new books to try out and had fun discussing with one another why they would pick one over the other! –Niewo Knows Best



I used this mainly for the mood and tone tasks and it did not disappoint. **My students were so engaged and interested in these activities. Everything you do is GOLD."** –Jennifer S.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## CHRISTMAS-THEMED ELA ACTIVITIES

### DIGITAL GOOGLE SLIDES LINKS:

WOULD YOU RATHER READ NOVEL SLIDES:

DIGITAL STUDENT ACTIVITY PAGES (GOOGLE SLIDES):



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# TEACHER GUIDES FOR EACH ACTIVITY

Includes teacher guides, activity materials, full-size reference materials, and student worksheets.



## Teacher Guide Page Christmas Figurative Language

### Overview

This activity helps students recognize figurative language in a Christmas-themed text. Students apply their knowledge to select examples of hyperboles, personification, and other figurative language.

### Why This Activity?

Middle schoolers often recognize figurative language in a Christmas-themed text.



## Teacher Guide Page: Christmas Commercial Mood and Tone



## Teacher Guide Page Christmas Songs Theme Analysis

### Overview

This activity uses music with Christmas vibes to help students practice the analysis. Students will listen to short clips from a curated list of songs across the curriculum and then analyze the lyrics for themes, imagery, and seasonal connections.

### Disclaimer

I just play the songs, I don't show the videos.

Always preview all songs before playing to check for appropriateness in classroom.

### Why This Activity?

Music provides a powerful and relatable entry point for middle schoolers. Songs use figurative language and emotional appeals that connect easily to students' lives. Plus, the fall theme helps engage students in a seasonal way.

### Instructions

#### 1. Introduce the Activity

- Explain that students will analyze the lyrics and overall theme of each song.
- Remind them to listen for imagery, figurative language, and message.

#### 2. Play Song Clips

- For time management, play only the first section up to the chorus.
- Pause after each clip for quick discussion or notes.
- Use teacher notes provided for any special start times or questions.

#### 3. Analyze Themes

Students can work individually, in pairs, or as a whole class to identify the central theme or message of this song?

- What is the central theme or message of this song?
- How does it connect to fall, change, memory, or nostalgia?
- What figurative language devices stand out?

#### 4. Wrap-Up Writing / Discussion

- Compare how different genres express similar Christmas themes.
- Optional writing prompt: Choose one song and explain how its theme connects to your own Christmas experiences.

### Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide lyric excerpts or guiding questions.
- Challenge:** Ask students to compare a song to a poem or short story with a similar theme.
- Engagement:** Let students suggest and analyze their own Christmas songs.

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## Teacher Guide Page: Christmas Commercial Rhetorical Appeals

Each student about rhetorical appeals. This activity includes a curated selection of commercials and a worksheet for analysis, credibility, and logic to persuade.



## Teacher Guide Page Christmas Novel Would You Rather Read...

### Overview

This activity helps students explore new novels while practicing decision-making and written explanation skills. Students read short synopses of two books, decide which one they would rather read, and explain their reasoning.

### Why This Activity?

This "Would You Rather" structure builds buzz around independent reading by presenting students with real choices. It also encourages them to think critically about what draws them to a book—whether it's genre, plot, theme, or style.

### Instructions

#### 1. Introduce the Activity

- Show students the slides (included in a separate file).
- Each slide presents two fall-themed novels with cover images and a synopsis.

#### 2. Student Choice

- Students read both synopses.
- They choose which book they would rather read.
- They write a short explanation for their choice, citing something specific from the synopsis that appealed to them.

#### 3. Optional Add-On

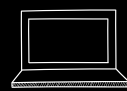
- If you have physical copies of the books, display them in the classroom.
- Encourage students to check them out or preview the activity.
- Use this as a springboard into book talk, reading, or literature circles.

### Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide sentence starters like "I would rather read... because..."
- Challenge:** Ask students to connect the book to a genre.
- Engagement:** Let students vote on their choice and display the results on a class chart.

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# SIX CHRISTMAS ELA ACTIVITIES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Find the Christmas words in the word search below.

B A C O V E R L A Y E R X H E E T E R

X P T

T P R

A R G

### ANSWER KEY

## CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

## Figurative LANGUAGE



**Definition:** Compares two unlike things using "like" or "as".  
**Example:** The Christmas lights twinkled like stars scattered across the night sky.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Determine which type of figurative language is used and then explain its meaning or how it is that particular type of figurative language.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ He was on Santa's naughty list after he pranked his little sister at Christmas dinner.

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Her smile was the star on top of the Christmas tree, lighting up the whole room.

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ We spent hours hanging outdoor lights to impress them when they went out right before the lights competition started.

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Dad told us to break a leg before the Christmas pageant.

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ He was as busy as Santa on Christmas Eve finishing his list.

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Teacher Guide Page

### Christmas Commercial Rhetorical Appeals

1. Aldi Kevin The Carrot Christmas Advert 2016 – by UK Ads Channel  
<https://youtu.be/lIRkn6Gsf8?si=IMBeLhztH7Gqf6Z3>

## rhetoric TERMS

### Rhetorical

**Definition:** A reason or set of reasons given with the aim of persuading others that an action or course of action is right or wise.

## CHRISTMAS COMMERCIALS RHETORICAL APPEALS

Watch the Christmas commercials and identify the ethos, pathos, and logos used in each. Some may not have all three appeals, but think critically about how all three might be included.



COMMERCIAL

Ethos: \_\_\_\_\_

Pathos: \_\_\_\_\_

Logos: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCIAL

Ethos: \_\_\_\_\_

Pathos: \_\_\_\_\_

Logos: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCIAL

Ethos: \_\_\_\_\_

Pathos: \_\_\_\_\_

Logos: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCIAL

Ethos: \_\_\_\_\_

Pathos: \_\_\_\_\_

Logos: \_\_\_\_\_



## Teacher Guide Page

### Christmas Commercial Mood and Tone

1. Aldi Kevin The Carrot Christmas Advert 2016 – by UK Ads Channel  
<https://youtu.be/lIRkn6Gsf8?si=IMBeLhztH7Gqf6Z3>
2. Apple 'Fuzzy Feelings' by Dose of Good Ads  
[https://youtu.be/Abti\\_lE3zEI?si=cq6KBo27puP5h8OQ](https://youtu.be/Abti_lE3zEI?si=cq6KBo27puP5h8OQ)
3. Boots Christmas Advert 2018 #GiftsThatGetThem by TVadverts1  
<https://youtu.be/lvuOFhgO29U?si=va1jJo-DjOZ4g95>
4. Best Christmas Commercial Ever by Micah LaCerte  
[https://youtu.be/Z\\_R4q70\\_rJg?si=5Rc73a0nl\\_fUre1l](https://youtu.be/Z_R4q70_rJg?si=5Rc73a0nl_fUre1l)
5. Home Alone: Macaulay Culkin Google Assistant Parody by IGN  
<https://youtu.be/-fHXKbsMLE?si=x5Sv3kAe5p-mRODI>
6. Hershey's Kisses Christmas Commercial by Christmasads  
<https://youtu.be/4HISLF4virk?si=KhUCg7coGPORDS1G>
7. IKEA – Silence The Critics - TV Advert 90 #WonderfulEveryday by IKEA UK  
<https://youtu.be/w0EK52Yflc0?si=1hTosPlyMCd49INH>
8. M&M's Christmas Commercial: THEY DO EXIST! by Christmasads  
[https://youtu.be/iE8CJwXSPRs?si=DaviM467y\\_MdVB1U](https://youtu.be/iE8CJwXSPRs?si=DaviM467y_MdVB1U)
9. Yellow Pages Christmas TV advert - Mistletoe (1992) by Yell  
<https://youtu.be/ywifSVrCqk?si=LzviMbtkCrGyAaNH>

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## MOOD AND TONE

**MOOD:** The author's attitude toward a subject

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### CHRISTMAS COMMERCIALS MOOD AND TONE

Watch the Christmas commercials and identify the mood and tone created in the beginning and identify the mood and tone that is created at the end of the commercials.



COMMERCIAL ONE



## Teacher Guide Page

### Christmas Songs Theme Analysis

**DISCLAIMER:** I JUST PLAY THE SONGS. I DON'T SHOW THE VIDEOS.

PREV

I've considered the sake of charity

### THEME STATEMENTS

• Human beings are

### THEME TOPICS IN LITERATURE

• Acceptance • Justice

## ANALYZING THE THEME OF CHRISTMAS SONGS

Listen to the famous Christmas songs and identify the main idea of the song.

SONG ONE:

Main Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

Text Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

SONG TWO:

Main Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

Text Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

SONG THREE:

Main Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

Text Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### CHRISTMAS NOVEL WOULD YOU RATHER READ...

Read the synopsis for each novel pair and then write the title of the book you would rather read. Then write an explanation as to why you'd prefer that book.

Would you rather read book one: \_\_\_\_\_  
Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you rather read book two: \_\_\_\_\_  
Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you rather read book three: \_\_\_\_\_  
Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you rather read book four: \_\_\_\_\_  
Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_



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# WOULD YOU RATHER READ... ACTIVITY

Would you rather read book five:

Explanation:

Would you rather read book one:

Explanation:

Name:

Date:

## CHRISTMAS NOVEL WOULD YOU RATHER READ...

Read the synopsis for each novel pair and then write the title of the book you would rather read. Then write an explanation as to why you'd prefer that book.

Would you rather read book one:

Explanation:



## Teacher Guide Page Christmas Novel Would You Rather Read...

### Overview

This activity helps students explore new novels while practicing decision-making and written explanation skills. Students read short synopses of two books, decide which one they would rather read, and explain their reasoning.

### Why This Activity?

This "Would You Rather" structure builds buzz around independent reading by presenting students with real choices. It also encourages them to think critically about what draws them to a book—whether it's genre, plot, theme, or style.

### Instructions

#### 1. Introduce the Activity

- Show students the slides (included in a separate file).
- Each slide presents two fall-themed novels with cover images and a synopsis.

#### 2. Student Choice

- Students read both synopses.
- They choose which book they would rather read.
- They write a short explanation for their choice, citing something specific from the synopsis that appealed to them.

#### 3. Optional Add-On

- If you have physical copies of the books, display them in the classroom.
- Encourage students to check them out or preview them after the activity.
- Use this as a springboard into book talks, independent reading, or literature circles.

### Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide sentence starters like "I would rather read \_\_\_\_\_ because..."
- Challenge:** Ask students to connect their choice to a past favorite book or genre.
- Engagement:** Let students vote on the most popular picks and track results on a class chart.

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## CHRISTMAS STORY

would you rather read

If you love holiday stories, holiday movies, made-for-TV holiday specials, holiday episodes of your favorite TV shows...

## CHRISTMAS STORY

would you rather read

## CHRISTMAS STORY

would you rather read

On Christmas Eve five years ago, seventeen-

## CHRISTMAS STORY

would you rather read

## CHRISTMAS STORY

would you rather read

The average person makes 35,000 decisions every single day. That's about \$4,999 too many for Paige Collins, who lives in debilitating fear of making the wrong choice. The simple act of picking an art elective is enough to send her into a spiral of what-ifs. What if...

## CHRISTMAS STORY

would you rather read

When Molar Alan and his older brother, Aaron, fill out their Christmas wish lists front and back, The Son of the...

An Ordinary Boy: An Extraordinary Purpose.

## CHRISTMAS STORY

would you rather read



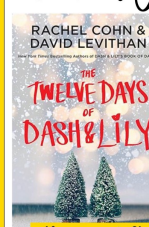
Harry Potter has never played a sport while flying on a broomstick. He's never worn a cloak of invisibility, befriended a giant, or helped hatch a dragon. All Harry knows is a miserable life with the Dursleys, his horrible aunt and uncle, and their abominable son, Dudley. Harry's room is a tiny closet at the foot of the stairs, and he hasn't had a birthday party in eleven years.

But then a mysterious letter arrives by owl messenger: a letter with an invitation to an incredible place called Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. And there he finds not only friends, aerial sports, and magic around every corner, but a great destiny that's been waiting for him... if Harry can survive the encounter.



## CHRISTMAS STORY

would you rather read



Dash and Lily have had a tough year since readers watched the couple fall in love in Dash & Lily's Book of Dares. Lily's beloved grandfather suffered a heart attack, and his difficult road to recovery has taken a major toll on her typically sunny disposition. Lily's spark has dimmed so much that Langston, her brother, has put aside his grudge against Dash to team up and remind Lily what there is to love about life.

With only twelve days left until Christmas-Lily's favorite time of the year-Dash, Langston, and their friends take Manhattan by storm to help Lily recapture the holiday spirit of New York City in December, a time and place unlike anywhere else in the world. Told in alternating chapters, The Twelve Days of Dash & Lily is bound to be a Christmas favorite for seasons to come.



Sierra's family runs a Christmas tree farm in Oregon—it's a bucolic setting for a girl to grow up in, except that every year, they pack up and move to California to set up their Christmas tree lot for the season. So Sierra lives two lives: her life in Oregon and her life at Christmas. And leaving one always means missing the other.

Until this particular Christmas, when Sierra meets Caleb, and one life eclipses the other. By reputation, Caleb is not your perfect guy: years ago, he made an enormous mistake and has been paying for it ever since. But Sierra sees beyond Caleb's past and becomes determined to help him find forgiveness and, maybe, redemption. As disapproval, misconceptions, and suspicions swirl around them, Caleb and Sierra discover the one thing that transcends all else: true love.

NINE

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# CHRISTMAS SONG THEMES AND FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

Each lesson plan has a teacher guide, all teacher links, student resources, and any applicable reference sheets.

## SONG FOUR:

Main Idea:

Theme:

## ANALYZING THE THEME OF CHRISTMAS SONGS

Listen to the famous Christmas songs and/or read the lyrics and determine the theme and main idea of the music. Provide one piece of evidence (a song lyric) that proves your theme.

## SONG FOUR:

Main Idea:

Theme:

Text Evidence:

## THEME STATEMENTS

- Human beings are always searching for acceptance.
- Bravery comes in many forms.
- Change is hard.
- Human beings are courageous when they are called upon to have courage.

## THEME TOPICS IN LITERATURE

- Acceptance
- Justice

## THEME STATEMENTS

- Human beings are always searching for acceptance.
- Bravery comes in many forms.

## THEME TOPICS IN LITERATURE

- Acceptance
- Adoption
- Ambition
- Angry
- Kindness
- Knowledge
- Loneliness
- Love

## Teacher Christmas Song

### DISCLAIMER: I JUST PLAY THE SONGS PREVIEW ALL VIDEOS AND SONGS

I've compiled a list and links to videos of song selection of songs from various musical genres for the sake of time and my sanity. I only play the chorus once. If the links don't work, they are broken.

- Andy Williams - It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year  
<https://youtu.be/wcdNN9awlw?si=GMK>
- Wham! - Last Christmas (Lyrics) by 7Cloud  
<https://youtu.be/KhaNTTbQ71A?si=Kv6A>
- BAND AID II - Do They Know It's Christmas?  
<https://youtu.be/72qExopm7w4?si=w4Qf>
- Mariah Carey - All I Want for Christmas Is You  
<https://youtu.be/dUv2MFpYnk7s?si=ScLcp>
- Ariana Grande - Santa Tell Me By LatinHype  
<https://youtu.be/2p2pFuo5c7si?si=Pz4A>
- Faith Hill - Where Are You Christmas (Lyrics)  
<https://youtu.be/neDYNIEWlo7s?si=5Q7UTE>
- Snopp Dogg and Anna Kendrick - Winter Wonderland  
Amber Saxton <https://youtu.be/Qf82vuc>

## Overview

This activity uses music with Christmas vibes to help students practice theme analysis. Students will listen to short clips from a curated list of songs across genres and then analyze the lyrics for themes, imagery, and seasonal connections.

## Disclaimer

I just play the songs, I don't show the videos. Always preview all songs before playing to check for appropriateness in your classroom.

## Why This Activity?

Music provides a powerful and relatable entry point for middle schoolers. Many songs use figurative language and emotional appeals that connect easily to literacy analysis skills. Plus, the fall theme helps engage students in a seasonal and creative way.

## Instructions

### 1. Introduce the Activity

- Explain that students will analyze the lyrics and overall theme of each song.
- Remind them to listen for imagery, figurative language, tone, and message.

### 2. Play Song Clips

- For time management, play only the first section up to the chorus.
- Pause after each clip for quick discussion or notes.
- Use teacher notes provided for any special start times or caution.

### 3. Analyze Themes

- Students can work individually, in pairs, or as a whole class to identify:
  - What is the central theme or message of this song?
  - How does it connect to fall, change, memory, or nostalgia?
  - What figurative language devices stand out?

### 4. Wrap-Up Writing / Discussion

- Compare how different genres express similar Christmas themes.
- Optional writing prompt: Choose one song and explain how its theme connects to your own Christmas experiences.

## Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide lyric excerpts or guiding questions.
- Challenge:** Ask students to compare a song to a poem or short story with similar theme.
- Engagement:** Let students suggest and analyze their own Christmas songs.

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12. \_\_\_\_\_ Her excitement was a \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ I have a mountain of Christmas cards

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_ Her excitement was a snowstorm swirling everywhere.

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_ He told everyone he \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_ The hot cocoa was a \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_ "This Christmas break \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ I have a mountain of Christmas cards

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ The fireplace whispered and crackled

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_ If she doesn't stop complaining about \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Determine which type of figurative language is used and then explain its meaning or how it is that particular type of figurative language.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Determine which type of figurative language is used and then explain its meaning or how it is that particular type of figurative language.



1. \_\_\_\_\_ He was on Santa's naughty list after he pranked his little sister during Christmas dinner.

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Her smile was the star on top of the Christmas tree, lighting up the whole room.

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

## Figurative LANGUAGE

Definition: Compares two unlike things using "like" or "as."

Example: The Christmas lights \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: Comparing two things that have something in common.

Example: The cafeteria was \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: The repetition of words or phrases.

Example: I've waited a million \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: The formation of a word from other words.

Example: Santa silently slid \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: Giving something human qualities.

Example: The Christmas cookies \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: An expression of something other than the actual meaning.

Example: He was grinning \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: An allusion is a figure of speech that refers to a person, place, or thing.

Example: When he grumbled \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: The expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite.

Example: He stayed up all night \_\_\_\_\_

## Teacher Guide Page Christmas Figurative Language

## Overview

This activity helps students review and practice identifying types of figurative language in a Christmas-themed context. Students will use a reference chart and apply their knowledge to sentences that include idioms, similes, metaphors, hyperboles, personification, irony, and more.

## Why This Activity?

Middle schoolers often recognize figurative language when they hear it in conversation, songs, or commercials, but they struggle to label and explain it. This activity gives them seasonal, high-interest examples and plenty of practice connecting definitions with real usage.

## Instructions

### 1. Introduce Figurative Language

- Use the reference chart (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, personification, idioms, allusion, irony). Read through definitions and examples together.

### 2. Independent Practice

- Students complete the worksheet by:
  - Identifying the type of figurative language in each sentence.
  - Explaining the meaning of the phrase or why it represents that type.

### 3. Review & Discuss

- Go over the answer key as a class. Encourage students to explain their thinking and notice that some phrases could spark debate (e.g., idiom vs. metaphor).

### 4. Extension Options

- Have students create their own Christmas-themed figurative language examples for each type.
- Use them to create a "class book" or display.
- Tie it into writing: challenge students to add at least three figurative language devices to a Christmas-themed narrative.

## Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide sentence stems like "This is \_\_\_\_\_ because it..."
- Challenge:** Ask students to explain how figurative language affects imagery, tone, or meaning in writing.
- Engagement:** Let students act out or illustrate examples for their peers.

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**Each lesson plan has a teacher guide, all teacher links, student resources, and any applicable reference sheets.**

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# DIGITAL STUDENT NOTEBOOK AND GOOGLE SLIDES INCLUDED

6-8 Christmas ELA Activities ☆ 📁 🌐

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1 **CHRISTMAS ELA ACTIVITIES**

2 **CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH**

3 **Figurative LANGUAGE**

4 **PREPARED TO GO TO CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS**

5 **PREPARED TO GO TO CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS**

6 **PREPARED TO GO TO CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS**

7 **PREPARED TO GO TO CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS**

## DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Determine which type of figurative language is used and then explain its meaning or how it is that particular type of figurative language.

EXAMPLE	TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE	MEANING AND/OR EXPLANATION
1. He was on <b>Santa's naughty list</b> after he pranked his little sister during Christmas dinner.		
2. Her smile was <b>the star on top of the Christmas tree</b> , lighting up the whole room.		
3. We spent hours hanging outdoor lights to impress the neighbors... and then <b>they went out right before the lights competition started.</b>		
4. Dad told us to <b>break a leg</b> before the Christmas pageant.		

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## CHRISTMAS COMMERCIALS RHETORICAL APPEALS

Watch the Christmas commercials and identify the ethos, pathos, and logos used in each. Some may not have all three appeals, but think critically about how all three might be included.

Commercial Product Five:
Ethos
Pathos
Logos

Commercial Product Six:
Ethos
Pathos
Logos

Commercial Product Seven:
Ethos
Pathos
Logos

Commercial Product Eight:
Ethos
Pathos
Logos

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6-8 Christmas Novel Would You Rather... ☆ 📁 🌐

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## CHRISTMAS STORY

would you rather read...

It's a snowy winter in London where we meet Ebenezer Scrooge, an old man who has become bitter with life. He is known for being cold and selfish. Scrooge profits off his impoverished community, financially benefitting off their labour while paying meagre wages to his employees.

In the lead up towards Christmas, Scrooge is visited by the spirit of his former business partner Jacob Marley who informs Scrooge to expect 3 ghosts. The Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, show Scrooge what he needs to see before it's too late, and we get to witness the mistakes of his past, the emptiness of his present and the dark future that awaits him.

Scrooge is considered one of the greatest redemption stories of all time. A magical story full of unforgettable moments, larger than life characters, a cautionary tale and a tale full of hope, expertly written by Charles Dickens.

In 1843, Charles Dickens penned a story—a classic Christmas tale full of ghosts and the endearing hunchback Ebenezer Scrooge. That story—which has captivated readers for over 150 years—is now accompanied by the delightful illustrations of Joe Sulphur. With charming woodland characters and settings that families will adore, readers will be transformed by *Little Christmas Carol*. A tale of greed, regret, loneliness, reflection, compassion, hope, and a joyfully changed life, this beautifully illustrated edition will enliven the timeless classic for readers young and old.

For the perfect family read-aloud, make *Little Christmas Carol* a part of your family's Christmas tradition. This new edition makes a wonderful gift.

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