**Figurative Language Vocabulary**

**Literal** means exact or not exaggerated. In a nutshell, the literal meaning of something is the “word for word” meaning.

**Figurative** is the opposite of literal. The figurative meaning can only be determined after careful thinking. You have to “read between the lines.”

A **simile** is when two things are compared because they have something in common. The word AS or LIKE is used to compare the two words. Ex: *The stars were shining like diamonds in the sky.*

A **metaphor** also compares two things, but it does it more directly. It does not use the words “as” or “like”. Ex: *The stars were diamonds in the night sky.*

**Alliteration** is the repetition of an initial consonant sound. *Ex: She sells seashells by the sea short.*

A **hyperbole** is a type of figurative language. It is often confused with a simile or a metaphor because it sometimes compares two subjects. The difference is a hyperbole is an exaggeration*.*

*Ex: “I told you a million times.”*

An **idiom** is something authors use in their writing to make it more exciting. It is a word or saying many people in a certain place or area say. *“Ex: He has ants in his pants.”*

There is one important thing to remember about idioms: **They do not mean what they say.**

**Onomatopoeia** occurs when a word is created to take on the sound that the word would make.

Ex: “Crunch, Snap.”

**Personification** is when a writer makes a thing, idea, or an animal do something only humans can do.

*Ex: “The wind whispered a quiet warning.”*

**Symbolism** is the use of symbols in literature to convey meaning. *Ex: A red rose is a symbol of love.*

A **proverb** is a short saying that expresses a traditionally held truth or piece of advice, based on common sense or experience. Ex: *“A leopard cannot change its spots.”*

An **adage** is a short statement expressing a general truth and has a longer history than a proverb. *“The old adage “out of sight out of mind.”*