

ELA4R1

Identifying Figurative Language and Foreshadowing

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions on the next page.

Sollie, the Rock

I've lived on a lake for most of my life. I've had lots of time to learn all sorts of fun things to do in the water. I think my favorite thing of all is water skiing. That's why I decided to invite my best friend, Sollie, over to give it a try.

Sollie had never been on skis before, but I knew Dad could help him learn, just like he helped me.

Water skiing is like flying. If you aren't afraid of getting up, you'll enjoy the ride. That's what I told Sollie before we spent the afternoon trying to get him up on skis for the first time.

I thought it would be easy. Sollie is a seal, sleek and smooth in the water, bobbing in and out of the waves. I thought someone so agile would find skiing easy. It didn't dawn on me until the fourth try that Sollie is shaped more like a rock than a bird.

On his first try, Sollie let go of the towrope when Dad hit the gas. He sank as fast as the *Titanic*. The only things visible were the tips of his skis.

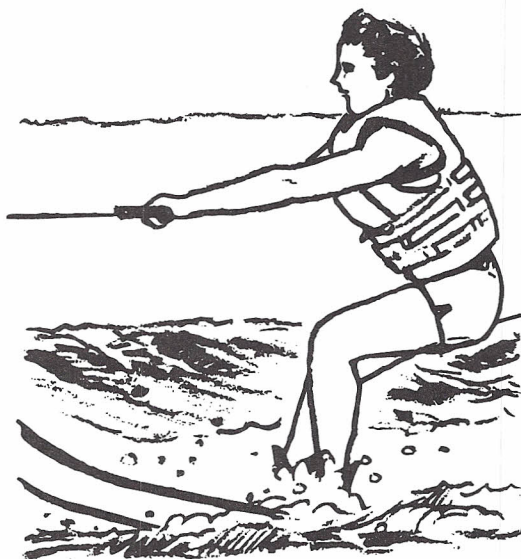
On his second try, Sollie leaned into the skis, flipping head over heels like a gymnast falling off the balance beam. His skis formed an "X" that marked the spot where he disappeared.

On the third try, Sollie stood up. He teetered forward and then back, as if he were a rag doll. His biggest mistake was holding on to the rope after he lost both skis. He flopped about behind the boat like a giant carp until he finally let go.

On the fourth try, Sollie bent his knees, straightened his back, and flew around the lake behind the boat as if he were a professional skier. He jumped the wake, rolled out next to the boat, and waved at me. He was "the man."

After three times around the lake, Sollie let go of the rope. He returned to his former self and dropped into the water like a rock.

After spending the afternoon out on the water with Dad and me, Sollie fell in love with water skiing. We made plans to do it again soon. Maybe even a rock can learn to fly!



GO

Metaphor—a direct comparison between unlike things. Example: Bobby is a mouse.

Simile—an indirect comparison between two unlike things using the words *like*, *as*, or *as if* to make the comparison. Example: Bobby is like a mouse.

Alliteration—the use of words that repeat the same beginning sound. Example: Round and round the rugged rock the ragged rascal ran.

1. Identify the following lines as metaphors (M) or similes (S).

_____ Sollie is a seal, sleek and smooth in the water, bobbing in and out of the waves.

_____ Sollie is shaped more like a rock than a bird.

_____ He sank as fast as the *Titanic*.

_____ He flopped about behind the boat like a giant carp until he finally let go.

2. What do the above similes suggest about Sollie?

3. Why is the following sentence not a simile or a metaphor?

Sollie bent his knees, straightened his back, and flew around the lake behind the boat as if he were a professional skier.

- (A) It does not make a comparison.
- (B) It makes a comparison between like things.
- (C) It makes a contrast rather than a comparison.
- (D) The comparison is not between a person and an animal.

4. Fill in the blank to turn the sentence into a simile.

Sollie bent his knees, straightened his back, and flew around the lake behind the boat . . .

5. Identify the use of alliteration given in the fourth paragraph of the story.

6. Foreshadowing means to indicate that something is going to happen—and it is usually something unpleasant. Which of the following sentences is an example of foreshadowing?

- (F) Water skiing is like flying.
- (G) We made plans to do it again soon.
- (H) I thought it would be easy.
- (J) After spending the afternoon out on the water with me and Dad, Sollie fell in love with water skiing.

