A Columbia ELA Presentation

- Sit Back
- Relax
- Absorb

You can take notes the second time around!
Language Types

Today we are going to examine two kinds of language ...

*literal language*

*and figurative language*
Literal vs. Figurative

To understand figurative language one has to understand the difference between the words literal and figurative ...
Literal Language

To be *literal* is to mean exactly what you say. For example, if I say, “Sit down!” I mean for you to sit down in your seat — now, please ...

... *my meaning is exactly what I say.*
More Literal Language

If I say, I’m tired and I’m going home,”
I mean I am tired and I’m going to where
I live …

There is NO other meaning — I mean
exactly what I say.
Figurative Language

To be *figurative* is to NOT mean what you say, but rather to imply something else. For example, if I tell you, “Let’s go chill!”

*I’m NOT suggesting we get into a freezer together ...*
“Let’s go chill” means let’s relax together and do something fun ...

... *It has nothing to do with temperature.*
Literal vs. Figurative

Confused? Think of it this way ...

\textit{literal is real and figurative is imaginary.}
Why Use Figurative Language?

Also known as descriptive or poetic language, figurative language helps the author paint a picture in the reader's mind.

Remember, figurative language does not mean what is actually being said or read. It does, however, make language much more interesting and entertaining.