

Hyperbole- Lesson Plans and Resources

Lesson Plan

Goal: Students can identify hyperboles and determine when to use it in their writing.

Focus: Identifying the use of hyperboles (Hyperbole (hi-pur'be-le) n. An exaggeration or overstatement intended to produce an effect without being taken literally.)

Hyperbole is a form of speech that could be described as 'extravagant exaggeration'. It is not appropriate when writing essays or reports, but a little hyperbole (pronounced 'hi-per-bo-lee') is an effective way to color the speech of a character in a short story, or use it to make a point effectively in a humorous piece of writing.

Examples:

I've told you a million times not to exaggerate.

Activities:

- 1. Students work in pairs to author a short story creating a character or characters that use(s) hyperboles constantly.**
- 2. The teacher will give blanket statements in class that the students will complete with their original hyperbole. Example:**

That student is so lazy that..... or that class was so boring (or exciting) that.....

- 3. Review the definition: Hyperbole simply means exaggeration.**

Some Examples:

I could sleep for a year.

This box weighs a ton.

I've told you a million times not to exaggerate.

Your mother is so small she does chin-ups on the curb.

The Hippo

**A head or tail - which does he lack?
I think his forward's coming back!
He lives on carrots, leeks, and hay;
He starts to yawn - it takes all day
Some time I think I'll live that way.**

Write a ten-line poem using hyperbole, or write ten examples of hyperbole.

4. Have students list at least 15 hyperboles not already given in the above examples. Now, choose 1 and create a poem using the hyperbole.