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Figurative Language
Onomatopoeia Reference Notebook

When a writer uses **figurative language**, they want to appeal to the reader's **senses, imagination** or sense of **humour**. The meaning of a figurative language phrase goes **beyond the literal meaning** of each individual word.

Song lyrics are a great place to find figurative language. Can you find the examples of **ONOMATOPOEIA** in this song excerpt?

Cut out around the edges of the box and glue the song into your book. Highlight each **ONOMATOPOEIA** you find and explain what it really means.

"Old MacDonald's Farm"

Old MacDonald had a farm
ee-eye-ee-eye-oh.
And on that farm he had some ducks,
ee-eye-ee-eye-oh.
With a quack quack here, and a quack quack
there…

And on that farm he had some pigs…
With an oink oink here, and an oink oink
there…

And on that farm he had some cows…
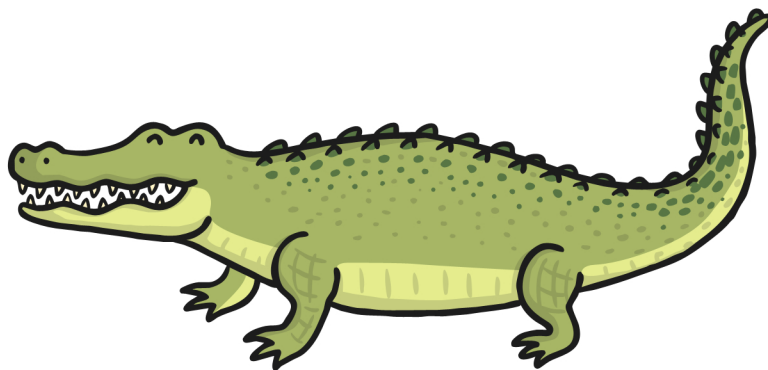With a moo moo here, and a moo moo
there…

Now cut out this quick reference guide to ONOMATOPOEIA and glue it into your book to remind you how this type of figurative language works.

Onomatopoeia

These are words whose **sounds suggest** the sound of what they are describing.

Animal noise or action words a frequently onomatopoeic. For example:
o *"Moo" said the cow.*
o *The snake hissed loudly.*
o *The St Bernard had a really deep woof.*
o *Snap! The crocodile's jaws closed on the deer.*

These sound words are often exclamatory and make a single-word sentence followed by an exclamation mark.
Crash! All the plates slid to the floor as the table collapsed.
The clown walked into the closed door. Bang! His nose was squashed flat.

Answers:

"Old MacDonald's Farm"

Old MacDonald had a farm
ee-eye-ee-eye-oh.
And on that farm he had some ducks,
ee-eye-ee-eye-oh.
With a quack quack here, and a quack quack
there...

And on that farm he had some pigs...
With an oink oink here, and an oink oink
there...

And on that farm he had some cows...
With a moo moo here, and a moo moo
there...

Teacher note:
Children are often confused by what is and isn't onomatopoeia. It's easier with animals sounds like those in the example. However, they can sometimes think that words such as 'hello' or 'yum' are onomatopoeic because they're used as short exclamations.

This type of figurative language can be quite confusing to EAL learners, because their mother tongue version of that sound is not like the English one. For example, although English dogs say 'woof', French ones say 'wuah'!