

# OGT READING TEST TIP SHEET

*Know the following reading terms:*

**Figurative language** – a tool used by authors to make writing more meaningful;

words and phrases aren't taken literally. Examples:

- Simile – a comparison of two seemingly unlike things using like or as

*Example* - The dog's fur was as black as midnight .

- Metaphor – a comparison of two things without using like or as; it just IS that thing

*Example* - Her fingernails were ten sparkling rubies.

- Hyperbole – extreme exaggeration, usually used for humor

*Example* – I've told you a million times . . .

or His mouth was the size of the Grand Canyon .

- Onomatopoeia – words that sound like the sound they represent; Ex: boom, drip, click

- Repetition – a phrase or word used several times for emphasis

- Personification – giving human qualities to a non-human thing; Ex: animals talking

- Euphemism – a phrase that replaces a possibly more-offensive one

*Example* – saying “vertically challenged” instead of short

- Symbol – where something in a story really represents something else

*Example* – the mockingbird represents an innocent victim

- Analogy – a comparison based on similarities in some ways, but maybe not others

- Foreshadowing – a hint of something to come in a story

- Flashback – an author's tool to explain something that happened in the past by having

a character remember a situation or incident previous to the present one in the story

***Other reading terms:***

- ❖ Point of view – the angle from which the story is told;  
first person = character in the story; third person = outside narrator
- ❖ Fact – a statement that can be proven; many times includes numbers or statistics
- ❖ Opinion – a statement that can be supported, but not proven; something arguable
- ❖ Style – a writer’s unique way of telling or informing; may be flowery, factual, etc.
- ❖ Plot – the action of the story; consists of an introduction, rising action, climax (high or turning point of action), falling action, conclusion
- ❖ Setting – when and where the story occurs; not just time, but also place
- ❖ Character – a person/animal in the story, may be major or minor
- ❖ Theme – literary term for main idea; examples include love, people and nature, people and society, good vs. evil, coming of age – there are others, but remember, they are general and can apply to other situations, not just that story
- ❖ Propaganda – information that is spread to support a cause; examples are glittering generality, name-calling, card stacking, bandwagon, plain folks, testimonial, transfer – its purpose is to create an emotional connection between message and reader/listener; think of commercials!
- ❖ Graphics – used to illustrate information; can be bar graphs, pie graphs, line graphs, or some other visual aid. Read these and details around them in titles, etc. carefully for complete and accurate information.
- ❖ Compare – to show how ideas or objects are alike or similar
- ❖ Contrast – to show how ideas or objects are different

**Reading Test-Taking Tips:**

- ✓ Read test selections carefully! Don’t just skim – read to understand!

- ✓ Use text to support your answers on short answer and extended response! Revisit the text after you read to find facts. This is basically an open-book test!
- ✓ Write complete answers in complete sentences to short answer and extended response questions! These are worth two and four points each!
- ✓ Many times, the questions refer you back to a specific place in the passage! Go there! Take advantage of the hint! Even if you know the answer, look anyway!
- ✓ If the passage is long, read the questions first to focus your reading!
- ✓ If you need to, use a pencil or your finger to point to lines of text as you read to keep focused. Circle or underline key words or phrases in questions.
- ✓ Reread any paragraph that is difficult to understand.
- ✓ You have plenty of time to take this test, so take breaks if you feel you're not focusing! Sharpen your pencil, blow your nose, or whatever works to refocus your efforts!
- ✓ On short answer and extended response, use your best handwriting – print or cursive! Don't let them judge you on your lack of neatness!
- ✓ Organize your prewriting – brainstorm! Use this as your chance to pick your best ideas and include them in your final short answer or extended response.