Literary Devices Worksheet - Teacher's Answers

Below are sample answers for the literary devices worksheet based on Sandra Cisneros' story 'Eleven.' Students' answers may vary, but these examples highlight key uses of literary devices in the text.

Simile

Can you find a comparison using 'like' or 'as'?

Sample Answer: Rachel says growing old is 'like an onion or like the rings inside a tree trunk.' This simile compares aging to layered objects to show how different ages exist inside her.

Metaphor

Find a phrase where one thing is described as if it were another.

Sample Answer: Rachel compares herself to 'pennies in a tin Band-Aid box,' which suggests she feels small, rattled, and insignificant.

Imagery

Locate a passage where Cisneros uses sensory details to create a vivid image.

Sample Answer: The sweater is described as smelling 'like cottage cheese' and being 'all itchy and full of germs.' This imagery appeals to smell and touch, making the sweater feel disgusting.

Repetition

Identify a phrase or word that is repeated for emphasis.

Sample Answer: Rachel repeatedly says 'Not mine, not mine, not mine,' emphasizing her desperation and frustration about the sweater.

Symbolism

Find something in the story that represents a larger idea or feeling.

Sample Answer: The red sweater symbolizes Rachel's embarrassment, shame, and lack of control in the classroom.

Hyperbole

Look for an exaggeration that emphasizes Rachel's feelings.

Sample Answer: The sweater is described as 'a thousand years old.' This exaggeration emphasizes how ugly and unwanted the sweater feels to Rachel.

Tone

What words or phrases help create the overall mood or attitude of the story?

Sample Answer: The tone is frustrated and vulnerable. Words like 'stupid clown-sweater arms' and Rachel's crying highlight her humiliation and sadness.