Figurative Language Review Worksheet

Directions: Read each sentence below. Each item contains a figure of speech with an accompanying question. Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank to the left.

1. Colin's drinking straw bent like a tiny elbow, causing the last of the orange juice to gurgle as it slipped past. The comparison of Collin's drinking straw to an elbow is an example of (A) a simile, (B) a metaphor, (C) a hyperbole, (D) an idiom.

2. Arable's desk is covered with about a million old papers and magazines. The figure of speech in the above sentence is (A) a simile, (B) a hyperbole, (C) personification, (D) an idiom.

3. Falling snow slowly wrapped the whole neighborhood in a blanket of white. This sentence contains an example of (A) a simile, (B) a metaphor, (C) an idiom, (C) personification.

4. It was so cold that if you spit, the slob would be an ice cube before it hit the ground. It was about a zillion degrees below zero. (The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis) Which of the following phrases from the passage is a hyperbole? (A) a zillion degrees below zero, (B) if you spit, (C) hit the ground, (D) It was so cold.

5. The wind was as loud as a freight train roaring past the windows. Which phrase, if substituted for the underlined simile in the sentence, would change it to a metaphor? (A) quickly, (B) a loud freight train, (C) blowing like a freight train, (D) like a monster.

6. Hazardous driving conditions threw cold water on our week-end plans. Threw cold water on is (A) a simile, (B) a metaphor, (C) a hyperbole, (D) an idiom.

7. A pot of soup sat on the stove top bubbling and steaming __________. Which of the following phrases can be placed in the blank above so that the sentence illustrates the use of a simile? (A) loudly, (B) like a small volcano, (C) out of the pot and down the sides, (D) for several hours.

8. Uncle Otis is a Scrooge about sharing his stash of chocolate covered cherries. According to the metaphor above, Uncle Otis (A) doesn't like candy, (B) gives most of his candy away, (C) will share with a few chosen people, (D) is stingy about sharing his supply of candy.

9. Smiling politely and introducing yourself is a good way to break the ice in a room full of strangers. Which phrase could be substituted for the idiom break the ice in the above sentence without changing its meaning? (A) get attention, (B) get over being shy, (C) make a lot of new friends, (D) fool people.

10. Five hundred jigsaw puzzle pieces fell to the floor like a blizzard. The figure of speech in the above sentence is (A) an idiom, (B) a metaphor, (C) a hyperbole, (D) personification.

11. All bundled up in his ski gear, Mason was ______________.
Choose the *metaphor* that will correctly complete the sentence. (A) uncomfortable and hot, (B) a big, round walking parade balloon, (C) barely able to move, (D) as big as a gorilla.

12. Tyler always puts his desk in apple pie order after he finishes his homework.
   The *idiom* in this sentence means that Tyler (A) eats apple pie after he finishes his homework, (B) stacks things up on his desk like the layers of a pie, (C) organizes his desk rather than leaving it messy, (D) leaves his homework on top of anything that might be on his desk.

13. Icy twigs sparkled like diamonds in the morning sun.
   The *simile* in this sentence compares (A) the morning sun to diamonds, (B) diamonds to sparkle, (C) ice to the morning sun, (D) icy twigs to diamonds.

14. Mom’s New Year’s resolution to read more and watch TV less lasted about two seconds.
   Which phrase is the *hyperbole*? (A) New Year’s resolution, (B) about two seconds, (C) to read more, (D) watch TV less.

15. War is a poor chisel for carving out peaceful tomorrows. (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
   Dr. King’s statement about war is an example of (A) a hyperbole, (B) an idiom, (C) a simile, (D) a metaphor.

16. The sheet of bubble wrap went off like a string of firecrackers when I tried to stuff it in the trashcan.
   The *simile* in this sentence indicates that the bubble wrap (A) made popping and cracking noises, (B) did not fit into the trashcan, (C) was not safe to handle, (D) caught fire.

17. Tops of half-buried cars __________ out from under the snow.
   Which of the following words can be placed in the blank to create *personification*? (A) protruded, (B) stuck, (C) popped, (D) peeped.

18. Bradley was a bouncing football traveling down the hill beside his sled.
   Bradley’s unusual trip down a snowy hill is presented in the sentence as (A) a simile, (B) a metaphor, (C) personification, (D) a hyperbole.

19. Sleet whispered in the air before it fell to the rooftops and streets below.
   Which of the following word groups from the sentence is *personification*? (A) fell to the rooftops, (B) in the air, (C) Sleet whispered, (D) in the air before it fell.

20.

    Well bless my soul
    What’s wrong with me? I’m itching like a man on a fuzzy tree.
    My friends say I’m actin' wild as a bug.
    I'm in love.
    I'm all shook up.

    from *All Shook Up*  
    Words and Music by Otis Blackwell.  
    Recorded by Elvis Presley 1956.

In the partial lyrics above, Otis Blackwell included two (A) similes, (B) hyperbole, (C) idioms, (D) metaphors.