Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Figurative Language Review – Answer Key

Part 1: Underline the example of figurative language in each quote. Then write what type of figurative language is being used.

1. “Natalie pokes her laptop and her speakers play a spooky organ fugue. Behind the organ, gates creak, crows caw, owls hoot.” *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, Anthony Doerr

Figurative Language: onomatopoeia

1. “…its whisper as soft as a pavement-scratching leaf.” Omeros, Derek Walcott

Figurative Language: simile

1. “There was an infinity of firmest fortitude, a determinate, unsurrenderable willfulness, in the fixed and fearless forward dedication of that glance.” Moby Dick, Herman Melville

Figurative Language: alliteration

1. “Even with the low cloud cover, the valley was an oven.” *The Fall of Hyperion*, Dan Simmons

Figurative Language: metaphor

1. “The ship danced over the waves, eager to return to Ithaca.” The Odyssey, Homer

Figurative Language: personification

1. “…which, come to the think of it, did have about them something of the air of a sinisterly superior barber’s shop.” *The Sea*, John Banville

Figurative Language: alliteration

1. “The old man who had known Fechin lay crumpled like a doll.” *Sword & Citadel*, Gene Wolfe

Figurative Language: simile

1. “I had to wait in the station for ten days—an eternity.” *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad

Figurative Language: hyperbole

1. “We’ll have no Cupid hoodwinked with a scarf.” *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare

Figurative Language: allusion

Part 2: Write what type of figurative language is being used and explain what it means. These are suggested answers. Instructors may decide which answers are acceptable.

Example: He is as tall as a tree.

Figurative Language: Simile

Meaning: He is very tall.

1. “Let me ride, Jewel,” Vardaman said. “Let me ride, Jewel.” He sounded like a cricket in the grass, a little one. *As I Lay Dying*, William Faulkner

Figurative Language: simile

Meaning: Vardaman is being noisy in a very annoying way.

1. “She shook her head; the narrow, brown eyes were dancing.” *Sword & Citadel*, Gene Wolfe

Figurative Language: personification

Meaning: Her eyes were moving in a way that made her look happy.

1. “This girl sitting here is my daughter Nina. I forgot to introduce her to you. She is a heavenly angel incarnate.” The Brothers Karamazov, Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Figurative Language: metaphor

Meaning: Nina is a wonderful person.

1. "I was helpless. I did not know what in the world to do. I was quaking from head to foot, and **could have hung my hat on my eyes**, they stuck out so far." *Old Times on the Mississippi*, Mark Twain

Figurative Language: hyperbole

Meaning: The narrator’s eyes are wide open from shock or fear.

1. Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
   So Eden sank to grief,  
   So dawn goes down to day.  
   Nothing gold can stay.

“Nothing Gold Can Stay”, Robert Frost

Figurative Language: allusion

Meaning: Even perfect things will disappear over time.