

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE CHARADES GAME

By Dorenda Doyle

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Ages: 4 to 10 (but fun for older kids & adults too!)

Number of Players: 2 or more

Goal of Game: FUN (and to learn about Figurative Language)

Directions:

*It is recommended that the Teacher or Monitor go through the Charade cards before the game begins and separate into two stacks—EASY and HARDER; use the EASY cards for ages 4-6 and the HARDER cards for ages 7-10. If the team member is not a reader yet, the Teacher or Adult Monitor may read & whisper the Charade card in the ear of the player, and may even offer some suggestions for actions. **The goal is to have FUN ... and maybe learn something in the process!***

1. Divide the group into two teams.
2. Teams take turns solving a Charade Card.
3. Each member of a team takes a turn pulling a Charade card (which has a figurative language phrase or word on it).
4. The Teacher or Adult monitoring the game can set a timer (or a phone alarm) for 1 minute (or whatever time he/she wants to allow) for each team member to act.
5. As a card is pulled, the team member ACTS OUT whatever is on the card; no words can be used, but sounds can be made (animal & machinery sounds, for instance). Props can also be used (such as a book, or pointing to an object).
6. The rest of that member's team can talk aloud, among themselves to figure out the phrase or word on the card. This is a TEAM effort to solve the charade!
7. IF the team figures out the phrase or word (it does NOT have to be exact; it is up to the Teacher or Monitor to make allowances) within the time allotted, that team earns a point.
8. A BONUS POINT may be earned by the team IF they can also tell the Teacher or Monitor what is REALLY meant by the phrase or word. This step may be too difficult for the younger kids, but a discussion is at least recommended. IF older kids or adults are playing, take this one step further and discuss WHERE this word or phrase may have originated!
9. If time is up, and the team has NOT solved the charade, the Teacher or Monitor can give the other team an opportunity to solve the charade. If they do, that team gets the point.
10. After the Charade card has been solved and discussed (what it REALLY means), the other team gets their turn (steps 3-9).

WINNER: The team with the most points when time is up.

**A WOLF IN
SHEEP'S
CLOTHING**

A BAD EGG

**ADD FUEL TO
THE FIRE**

**A BEE IN YOUR
BONNET**

AIR HEAD

**A DROP IN THE
OCEAN**

ALL EARS

**AHEAD OF THE
PACK**

**APPLE OF MY
EYE**

**ANTS IN YOUR
PANTS**

**AS RIGHT AS
RAIN**

**BALL IS IN YOUR
COURT**

**BACK TO
SQUARE ONE**

**BARKING UP THE
WRONG TREE**

**BALL IS IN YOUR
COURT**

**BE A FLY ON THE
WALL**

**BARKING UP THE
WRONG TREE**

BED OF ROSES

BASKET CASE

**BEND OVER
BACKWARDS**

**BEAT AROUND
THE BUSH**

**BETTER SAFE
THAN SORRY**

BITE THE BULLET

**BETTER THAN
SLICED BREAD**

**BOX YOURSELF
IN**

BIG PICTURE

**BRING TO THE
TABLE**

BITE THE BULLET

**BRINGING HOME
THE BACON**

**BLUE IN THE
FACE**

**BURN THE
CANDLE AT
BOTH ENDS**

BREAK A LEG

**BURN THE
MIDNIGHT OIL**

**BUTTERFLIES IN
MY STOMACH**

BUSY AS A BEE

BREAK THE ICE

**BUTTER MY
BISCUIT**

**BROKE THE
BANK**

BY THE BOOK

**BY THE SKIN OF
YOUR TEETH**

CALL IT A DAY

**COSTS AN ARM
AND A LEG**

CHEW THE FAT

CUTE AS A BUG

**COME RAIN OR
SHINE**

**DON'T COUNT YOUR
CHICKENS BEFORE
THEY HATCH**

**CRY OVER
SPILLED MILK**

**DON'T POKE THE
BEAR**

CRY WOLF

**DOWN THE
HATCH**

**CUTTING
CORNERS**

**EARLY BIRD GETS
THE WORM**

**DIG IN YOUR
HEELS**

**EARN YOUR
WINGS**

**DON'T HAVE A
COW**

EASY AS PIE

**DOWN TO THE
WIRE**

**EASY COME
EASY GO**

**DRIVE ME UP
THE WALL**

**EVERY CLOUD
HAS A SILVER
LINING**

DROP THE BALL

**FISH OUT OF
WATER**

**EGG ON YOUR
FACE**

GAME PLAN

**FROG IN MY
THROAT**

**GET OUT OF
HAND**

**GARBAGE IN
GARBAGE OUT**

**GET THAT OUT
OF YOUR
SYSTEM**

**GET BENT OUT
OF SHAPE**

**GET YOUR
DUCKS IN A
ROW**

**GET OUT OF
HAND**

**GO BACK TO THE
DRAWING
BOARD**

**GET YOUR ACT
TOGETHER**

**GO DOWN THE
DRAIN**

**GIVE HIM THE
COLD SHOULDER**

**GO THE EXTRA
MILE**

**GRASS IS ALWAYS
GREENER ON THE
OTHER SIDE**

**GORILLA
WARFARE**

HANG IN THERE

HIT THE BOOKS

**HIT THE NAIL ON
THE HEAD**

HIT THE HAY

**HOLD YOUR
HORSES**

HORSE-SENSE

**ICING ON THE
CAKE**

**IN THE DRIVER'S
SEAT**

**IGNORANCE IS
BLISS**

IPHONE

IN A NUTSHELL

**JUDGE A BOOK
BY ITS COVER**

**IT'S AN UPHILL
BATTLE**

**KICK THE
BUCKET**

**JUMP ON THE
BANDWAGON**

**KICK UP YOUR
HEELS**

**LEARN THE
ROPES**

**KILL TWO BIRDS
WITH ONE
STONE**

MISS THE BOAT

**LEAVE NO STONE
UNTURNED**

NO BACKBONE

**LET HIM OFF THE
HOOK**

NOT GONNA FLY

**LET THE CAT OUT
OF THE BAG**

ON THE BALL

**LONG STORY
SHORT**

**ON THE SAME
PAGE**

**LOW-HANGING
FRUIT**

**ON TOP OF THE
WORLD**

**MAKE A LONG
STORY SHORT**

**OVER THE
MOON**

**MY HANDS ARE
TIED**

PIG OUT

NO-BRAINER

PLAY IT BY EAR

ON CLOUD NINE

POCKETBOOK

ON THIN ICE

**PULL
SOMEONE'S LEG**

**ONCE IN A BLUE
MOON**

**PULL YOURSELF
TOGETHER**

**OPEN A CAN OF
WORMS**

**PUT ALL YOUR
EGGS IN ONE
BASKET**

**OUT IN THE
OPEN**

**RAINING CATS
AND DOGS**

PIECE OF CAKE

RAISE THE BAR

**PLAY YOUR
CARDS RIGHT**

**READ BETWEEN
THE LINES**

PULL HIS LEG

ROCK THE BOAT

PUT A SOCK IN IT

SEE EYE TO EYE

**PUT THE CART
BEFORE THE
HORSE**

SHOTGUN

**QUIET AS A
MOUSE**

**SIT ON THE
FENCE**

RED TAPE

SMARTY PANTS

REDHEAD

SPILL THE BEANS

SECOND WIND

**STEP UP YOUR
GAME**

SKELETON CREW

**SWING A DEAD
CAT**

**SMOOTH
SAILING**

**TAKE A
RAINCHECK**

**STARS IN YOUR
EYES**

**TAKE THE BULL
BY THE HORNS**

**STICK TO YOUR
GUNS**

THE LAST STRAW

**TAKE A RAIN
CHECK**

**THROUGH THICK
AND THIN**

**TAKE THAT WITH
A PINCH OF SALT**

TWIST MY ARM

**THE WHOLE
NINE YARDS**

**TWO'S COMPANY,
THREE'S A CROWD**

**THINK OUTSIDE
THE BOX**

**UNDER THE
WEATHER**

**TIME FLIES
WHEN YOU'RE
HAVING FUN**

**UNTIL THE COWS
COME HOME**

UP IN THE AIR

**WATER UNDER
THE BRIDGE**

**UP WITH THE
CHICKENS**

WHEN PIGS FLY

**WE WILL CROSS THAT
BRIDGE WHEN WE
COME TO IT**

**WRAP MY HEAD
AROUND THAT**

WHEN PIGS FLY

**YOU CAN SAY
THAT AGAIN**

WIGGLE WART

**YOUR GUESS IS
AS GOOD AS
MINE**

**YOU CAN SAY
THAT AGAIN**

