**The 5 part formula – an easy way of using PEE when commenting on a writer’s use of language.**

**\* All of the three writing techniques which follow can also be referred to as figures of speech or imagery.**

**SIMILE** - a comparison in which one thing is said to be like or as another thing, e.g. “*the surface of the lake was as smooth as a mirror.”*

**METAPHOR** - a comparison in which one thing is said to be something which it literally is not, e.g. “*the surface of the lake was a mirror”*; OR when something is said to be able to do something which it literally cannot do, e.g. “*the surface of the lake burned in the mid-day sun.”*

**PERSONIFICATION** – when an inanimate (non-living) thing or animal is given human qualities which it literally cannot have, eg. “*the surface of the lake glowed with happiness.”*

**If you are finding it difficult to explain why a writer has used a SIMILE, METAPHOR or PERSONIFICATION, then you could try using the following 5 part formula.**

When commenting on a writer’s use of any one of the above figures of speech, you should:

1. copy out the figure of speech in quotation marks;
2. state which figure of speech it is;
3. say what the original thing being described is;
4. say what it is said to be like/as (SIMILE), or what it is said to be - or said to be able to do - (METAPHOR), or what human qualities it is said to possess (PERSONIFICATION);
5. find as many impressions as possible which have been created about the original thing by use of the figure of speech.

**By doing this you will, in effect, have used PEE (Point, Evidence, Explanation.)**

**EXAMPLE:**

1. “The surface of the lake was a mirror.”
2. In this metaphor,
3. the original thing being described is the surface of the lake.
4. The writer is comparing it to a mirror.
5. The impressions created about the surface of the lake by this metaphor are that: the lake is reflective; the water is very still and calm and, therefore, flat; it is probably a sunny day without any breeze. Therefore, the writer is creating an impression of gentleness, peacefulness and calmness.