



Exploring the Metaphors

In the Story Shawn the Shortboarder

What is a metaphor: A **metaphor** is when something is described as something else to help us understand it better or to give it a deeper meaning , like saying "*Your mind is a garden*" instead of just talking about thoughts.

Why do these metaphors matter? These metaphors help kids:

1. Understand life in a fun and easy way.
2. To see life as an adventure instead of something scary.
3. It shows that it's normal to have ups and downs, and that we can handle them with courage and a good attitude.
4. It makes the story relatable, even if you've never surfed, you can imagine riding through problems in your own life.

Metaphors in Shawn the Shortboarder:

1. "You can surf through each day as happy as me."

Example of how it can be interpreted:

Life has ups and downs, like waves in the ocean.

You can choose to face each day with a happy and positive attitude, just like Shawn enjoys surfing. Even when challenges come, if you stay calm and think positively, you can handle them and feel happy.

2. "The current can be tough and life can seem hard at times."

Example of how it can be interpreted:

The ocean current is being compared to the hard times in life.

Just like the ocean's current can pull you in different directions and make swimming difficult, life can sometimes feel like it's pushing against you or making things hard.

The "current" stands for problems, challenges, or struggles that everyone faces.

Shawn is reminding readers that Sometimes life feels hard, just like swimming against strong waves but if you keep trying, you'll get through it.



Metaphor Discussion

Practicing reading comprehension and critical thinking

In Shawn the Shortboarder's story, the Author uses metaphors. See if you can try to give an example of how to interpret what the Author is trying to say in each passage below.

The first one is done for you.

1. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

He says, "You can surf through each day as happy as me. If you think positive thoughts, then happy is what you'll be!"

Give your best answer:

If you think happy thoughts and stay positive, you can enjoy every day, even when things are hard."

2. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

"Living in the moment means living day by day. You can't worry about the future; that's not the way." Give your best answer:

3. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

He takes a deep breath and says, "I won't quit!" He stays strong and he paddles right through it!

Give your best answer:

4. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

"Every wave can be different and it can grow tall. But it will only last a moment, you'll get through it all."

Give your best answer:



Metaphor Discussion

Practicing reading comprehension and critical thinking

5. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

“You may even fall and tumble around once or twice. This will be a good lesson.”

Give your best answer:

6. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

Shawn says, “When you see a big wave that looks too big to conquer that day, Take a breath, remember what I said, you’ll get through it this way.”

Give your best answer:

7. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

“The current can be tough and life can seem hard at times. Don’t fight it, just swim downstream, and you’ll be fine.”

Give your best answer:

8. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

“When a wave has you going up and down, smile, you will be happier than if you frown.”

Give your best answer:



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1. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

"You can surf through each day as happy as me. If you think positive thoughts, then happy is what you'll be!" Give your best answer:

An example of an interpretation could be:

If you think happy thoughts and stay positive, you can enjoy every day, even when things are hard."

The message is: *To think positive to be happy*

2. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

"Living in the moment means living day by day. You can't worry about the future; that's not the way." Give your best answer:

An Example of an interpretation could be:

Don't worry too much about what might happen tomorrow. Enjoy today and do your best with what's happening right now.

The message is: *Live in the moment*

3. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

He takes a deep breath and says, "I won't quit!" He stays strong and he paddles right through it!

Give your best answer:

Example of an interpretation could be:

Trying something new, can feel scary, but being brave helps you succeed.

The message is: *Be brave and don't quit*

4. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

"Every wave can be different and it can grow tall. But it will only last a moment, you'll get through it all."

Give your best answer:

Example of an interpretation could be:

Shawn is saying, "Some days or problems might feel really big, but they won't last forever, and you can handle them."

The message is: *Hard times don't last forever:*



Metaphor Discussion

Practicing reading comprehension and critical thinking

5. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

“You may even fall and tumble around once or twice. This will be a good lesson.”

Give your best answer:

An example of an interpretation could be:

Mistakes help you get better! Or You learn from your mistakes

The message is: *Mistakes are part of learning*

6. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

Shawn says, “When you see a big wave that looks too big to conquer that day, Take a breath, remember what I said, you’ll get through it this way.” Give your best answer:

An Example of an interpretation could be:

If you feel nervous about something, take a deep breath to calm down. You will get through it okay just remember to think positive.

The message is: *Take deep breaths when you’re scared*

7. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

“The current can be tough and life can seem hard at times. Don’t fight it, just swim downstream, and you’ll be fine.” Give your best answer:

Example of an interpretation could be:

Situations can be challenging or not fair sometimes but just go with it, and make the best of it.

The message is: Don’t fight what you can’t control

8. What is the Author trying to say in this passage?

“When a wave has you going up and down, smile, you will be happier than if you frown.”

Give your best answer:

Example of an interpretation could be:

When you day is going from good to bad, you can choose to not let it bother you and still enjoy the rest of your day. If you are thinking positive your bad day wont bother you as much.

The message is: *Happiness comes from how you respond*



Metaphor Activities

Game: “Surf the Positive Waves”

This is a great exercise that promotes teamwork, listening skills, and emotional awareness. (Can be played with a parent and child or a classroom activity.)

Objective:

Students learn to help each other handle challenges with positive thinking, encouraging words, and problem-solving skills, like Shawn surfs through waves.

Materials:

A small stuffed ball (“the wave” “A Challenging Situation”)
Open space in the classroom or gym or outdoors

Instructions:

Set the Scene:

Explain that the floor is the ocean, and the ball represents a wave (a challenge in life).

Pass the Wave:

Students stand in a circle.

One student holds the ball and says a “challenge” they sometimes face (Example: “I get nervous before a test”).

Add a Positive Response:

They then pass the ball to the next student for a response on how they could face it positively (Example: “You can try to take a deep breath and do your best”).

Keep the Wave Moving:

Continue passing the ball around the circle. Encourage creativity and “surfing through” each challenge with courage and positivity.

Lesson Connection:

Students practice recognizing challenges (waves) and coming up with positive, brave responses, just like Shawn.