A Columbia ELA Presentation

- **Sit Back**

- **Relax**

- **Absorb**

You can take notes the second time around!

Language Types

Today we are going to examine two kinds of language …

literal language

and *figurative* language

Literal vs. Figurative

To understand figurative language one has to understand the difference between the words literal and figurative …

Literal Language

To be *literal* is to mean exactly what you say. For example, if I say, "Sit down!" I mean for you to sit down in your seat — now, please …

… my meaning is exactly what I say.

More Literal Language

If I say, I'm tired and I'm going home,"
I mean I am tired and I'm going to where
I live ...

There is NO other meaning — I mean
exactly what I say.

Figurative Language

To be *figurative* is to NOT mean what you say, but rather to imply something else. For example, if I tell you, "Let's go chill!"

I'm NOT suggesting we get into a freezer together …

More Figurative Language

"Let's go chill" means let's relax together and do something fun …

… It has nothing to do with temperature.

Literal vs. Figurative

Confused? Think of it this way …

literal is real and *figurative is imaginary.*

Why Use Figurative Language?

Also known as descriptive or poetic language, figurative language helps the author paint a picture in the reader's mind.

Remember, figurative language does not mean what is actually being said or read. It does, however, make language much more interesting and entertaining.