Brave New World Standards Focus: Figurative Language

One of the most interesting aspects of Brave New World is Huxley’s use of figurative language, or ideas communicated beyond their literal meaning to create an image in the reader’s mind. Huxley is able to create an image of the New World in our minds, just through his choice of words. There are several types of figurative language, called figures of speech:

- **metaphor**—a comparison made between two unlike objects
- **simile**—a comparison between two unlike objects, using the words “like” or “as”
- **imagery**—using words that appeal to the senses
- **personification**—giving human qualities or characteristics to non-human objects

**Directions:** For each excerpt below, identify the type of figurative language that is being used: metaphor, simile, imagery, or personification. Then identify the effect of these particular words on the reader.

### Example
The overalls of the workers were white, their hands gloved with a pale, corpse-colored rubber.

**Type:** Imagery  
**Effect:** These words create a feeling of lifelessness in the Hatchery, which is a place that is supposed to be giving life. The word “corpse” adds to the dead feeling.

| 1. The light was frozen, dead, a ghost. | **Type:** ________________  
Effect: _____________________________________________________________________ |
| 2. Machinery faintly purred. | **Type:** ________________  
Effect: _____________________________________________________________________ |
| 3. And in effect, the sultry darkness into which the students not followed him was visible and crimson, like the darkness of closed eyes on a summer’s afternoon. | **Type:** ________________  
Effect: _____________________________________________________________________ |
| 4. Like chickens drinking, the students lifted their eyes towards the distant ceiling. | **Type:** ________________  
Effect: _____________________________________________________________________ |
| 5. Thousands of petals, ripe-blown and silky smooth, like the cheeks of innumerable little cherubs... | **Type:** ________________  
Effect: _____________________________________________________________________ |
| 6. There was something desperate, almost insane, about the sharp spasmodic yelps to which they now gave utterance. Their little bodies twisted and stiffened; their limbs moved jerkily as if to the tug of unseen wires. | **Type:** ________________  
Effect: _____________________________________________________________________ |
7. Torrents of hot water were splashing into or gurgling out of a hundred baths. Rumbling and hissing, eighty vibro-vacuum massage machines were simultaneously kneading and sucking the firm and sunburnt flesh of eighty superb female specimens.

**Type:**

**Effect:**

8. The summer afternoon was drowsy with the hum of passing helicopters...

**Type:**

**Effect:**

9. ...the propeller shrilled from hornet to wasp, from wasp to mosquito.

**Type:**

**Effect:**

10. Not so much like drops of water, though water it is true, can wear holes in the hardest granite; rather, drops of liquid sealing-wax, drops tat adhere, incrust, in corporate themselves with what they fall on, till finally the rock is all one scarlet blob. (Referring to hypopaedia)

**Type:**

**Effect:**