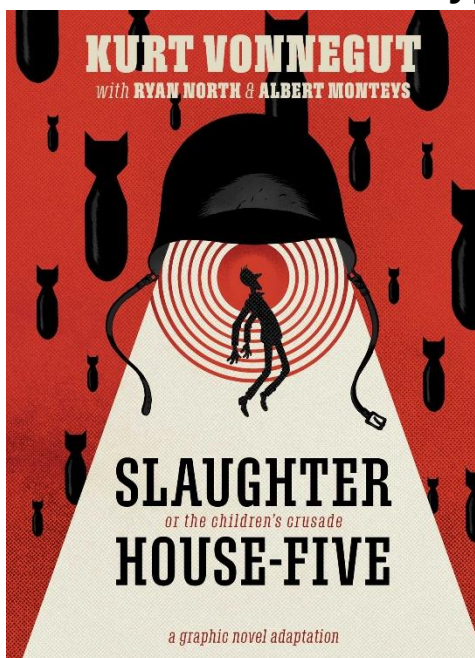


Hyperbole Activity



Read the following example of hyperbole in literature. Carefully study the hyperbolic explanation. Then, complete the activity highlighted in red.

From *Slaughterhouse Five* (The Children's Crusade: A Duty-Dance with Death) (1969) by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (1922 – 2007)

This intensely dark comedy is based on the author's real experiences in World War II. Vonnegut was interned in Dresden, Germany, and survived the city's bombing, which killed around 25,00 civilians.

"There was a fire-storm out there. Dresden was one big flame. The one flame ate everything organic, everything that would burn. It wasn't safe to come out of the shelter until noon the next day. When the Americans and their guards did come out, the sky was black with smoke. The sun was an angry little pinhead. Dresden was like the moon now, nothing but minerals. The stones were hot. Everybody else in the neighborhood was dead."

Explanation:

It almost seems strange to call this hyperbole, as 90 percent of the city's center was destroyed. However, Dresden wasn't a literal "big flame," and the sky, while darkened by smoke,

likely wasn't entirely blacked out. Vonnegut is using exaggeration to help the readers understand how intense and horrifying that moment was.



Hyperbole Activity

Directions: Read the excerpt below and **explain what the writer is trying to emphasize in the short poem** (originally written in Sanskrit) from Bhartrihari, "A Man May Tear a Jewel". What are some of the exaggerations?

A man may tear a jewel
From a sea monster's jaws,
Cross a tumultuous sea
Of raging tides,
Or twine garlandwise
A wrathful serpent on his head.
But no man can alter
The thoughts of an obstinate fool.