



# Figureheads of Speech

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## **NARRATOR:**

Many years ago and very far away -- on the continent of Grammar -- there was a land called Literal. It was a beautiful country and its people lived a simple life, and shared a common rule: *Say what you mean*. That rule served them well -- until the reign of King Pun.

## **KING PUN:**

I cannot write with this broken quill! It's *pointless*!

## **QUEEN SIMILE:**

What troubles you, my king? Your voice is like thunder today.

## **KING PUN:**

My subjects say I have no *sense*. Do they believe I am a poor beggar who isn't fit to lead?

## **QUEEN SIMILE:**

Never, my lord. You are as royal as your golden crown.

## **PRINCESS PERSONIFICATION:**

What is this about father's crown? It cries that it is lonely on the shelf.

## **PRINCE PARADOX:**

A lonely crown? Sister, you are clearly confused.

## **PRINCESS PERSONIFICATION:**

One thing is clear to me, brother: your clothes speak that you are going out.

**PRINCE PARADOX:**

It's a well-known secret that I have a big game today.

**KING PUN:**

Ah! A game! You should be *sky as a height!*

**PRINCE PARADOX:**

I am. We play the Gifted Losers. The game could get pretty ugly.

**SERVANT:**

Pardon me, King Pun. You have guests. Shall I show them in?

**KING PUN:**

Lower the drawbridge!...

**NARRATOR:**

...he said *remotly!*

**DUKE OF ALLITERATION:**

Thank you for seeing us, King Pun. I should probably progress to the problem of proportion in our provinces.

**DUCHESS OF ONOMATOPOEIA:**

Yes, like a whirring arrow!

**DUKE OF ALLITERATION:**

There is a situation with our citizens. They do not regard your rules. They can't read and rarely recall the regulations. The laws are lost on them.

**KING PUN:**

Are your soldiers up in arms?

**DUKE OF ALLITERATION:**

Yes, Your Highness. Our people are perplexed by your precepts.

**KING PUN:**

Must there be punishment?

**DUKE OF ALLITERATION:**

Pardon me, King Pun. Perhaps I might point out the pattern?

**DUCHESS OF ONOMATOPOEIA:**

Whoosh! Now you're zinging right to the matter!

**DUKE OF ALLITERATION:**

Dear King, what did you desire when you delivered your decree "When your clock is hungry, go back *four* seconds"?

**KING PUN:**

Seven days without food makes one *weak*, and it's time for dinner.

**HIS HIGHNESS HYPERBOLE:**

Hello, Duke. Won't you eat? There is enough food to feed an army.

**MARQUIS OF METAPHOR:**

This gathering is a joy, and the meal a feast.

**DUKE OF ALLITERATION:**

The delicacies are delightful, but what shall we do about the decrees?

**QUEEN SIMILE:**

The duke believes our laws are like a puzzle to the people.

**MARQUIS OF METAPHOR:**

That problem is a tempest in a teapot.

**EARL OF IDIOM:**

You took the words right out of my mouth.

**DUKE OF ALLITERATION:**

When rare rain reduced ripe radishes, you said, "Let them eat *stake*."

**HIS HIGHNESS HYPERBOLE:**

Speaking of food, I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.

**PRINCESS PERSONIFICATION:**

And what did the stake have to say about that?

**DUCHESS OF ONOMATOPOEIA:**

It never spoke, but I heard the whizzing of a saw.

**DUKE OF ALLITERATION:**

To tell the truth, the territory is in tumult.

**SERVANT:**

If I may, there is a simple way -- *say what you mean and mean what you say.*

**EARL OF IDIOM:**

Interesting. You give us food for thought.

**QUEEN SIMILE:**

For our citizens, let our words be clear as crystal and pure as water.

**KING PUN:**

The pun is fun, and we can't be done. But if this is what the people wish, here, my friends, is the dish, "When passing on rules and laws and such, be plain in speech to keep in touch."

