

## Figurative Language in Toni Morrison’s *A Mercy*

Figure of Speech and page number*	Type of Figure of Speech	Inference based on Figure of Speech
“The sons were as silent as tombs. D’Ortega’s wife was a chattering magpie, asking pointless questions...” (p. 17)		
Lina: “You are one leaf on his tree,” Florens shook her head, closed her eyes and replied, “No. I am his tree.” (p. 61)		
“Her own death was what she should be concentrating on. She could hear its hooves clacking on the roof, could see the cloaked figure on horseback.” (p. 79)		
“It is hours I walk this sunny field, my thirst so loud I am faint.” (p. 102)		
“One of her eyes looks away, the other is as straight and unwavering as a she-wolf’s.” (p. 107)		
“Swine look at me with more connection when they raise their heads from the trough.” (p. 113)		
“With the letter I belong and am lawful. Without it I am a weak calf abandon by the herd, a turtle without a shell...” (p. 115)		
“It was foreign to her as ocean was to sheep.” (p. 126)		

<p>“By the time Sorrow recovered, Florens was struck down with another sickness much longer lasting and far more lethal.” (p. 127)</p>		
<p>“Strangest was Florens. The docile creature they knew had turned feral.” (p. 146)</p>		
<p>“You say you see slaves freer than free men. One is a lion in the skin of an ass. The other is an ass in the skin of a lion.” (p. 160)</p>		
<p>“Mae, you can have pleasure now because the soles of my feet are hard as cypress.” (p. 161)</p>		
<p>“There is no protection. To be female in this place is to be an open wound that cannot heal. Even if scars form, the festering is ever below.” (p. 163)</p>		

\* Page numbers from Toni Morrison's *A Mercy* (2008), Knopf 1st edition (hardcover), ISBN 978-0307264237