**Figurative Language and The Night Gardener**

The following phrases and sentences have been taken from The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier.

1. “Steam rose from the soil like a phantom…”
2. “The mud was black and greedy, holding on to whatever touched it…”
3. “The girl peered through the banister rails like a prisoner.”
4. “Even her [Mistress Windsor’s] movements were elegant. Like a picture come alive”
5. “ … a battlefield littered with the corpse of dollies and wooden toys and stuffed animals.”
6. “Dark shadows flickered and danced across her face …”
7. “ . .. a gallery of bad dreams.”
8. “Kip had poured his very heart into its [the letters] composition and to ignore that seemed cruel, like setting fire to a prayer.”
9. “Molly thought to herself that it [the bag of money] sounded more like a bag of chains.”
10. “… her every footstep an earthquake.”
11. “Even now, he could feel it [the pit] at his heels, calling to him, taunting him.
12. “It [the key] weighed like an anchor in her palm.”
13. “Leaves swirled around them spinning and swooping in a gentle, almost beautiful dance.”
14. “He turned over, and her head lolled to one side like a dead weight.”
15. “Molly felt a wave of guilt wash over her.”
16. “She picked it [the button] up, holding it between her fingers like a jewel.”
17. “The debt, the loans . . . It’s like an anaconda coiled around me, squeezing me tighter and tighter.”
18. “Black sap covered the place where the branch had been torn off, like blood from a wound.”
19. “They had enough oil to set the world ablaze.”
20. “Molly started up at the tree, its black branches spreading out like a poison across the moonless sky.”
21. “The house crackled and roared like a giant’s funeral pyre.”
22. “There had to be a weak spot somewhere – a soft underbelly, a chink in the armor . . .”
23. “Little embers swirled gently through the air like snowflakes.”
24. “Molly stared at the mountain of fire….”

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Answer Key

1. “Steam rose from the soil like a phantom…” Simile
2. “The mud was black and greedy, holding on to whatever touched it…” Personification
3. “The girl peered through the banister rails like a prisoner.” Simile
4. “Even her [Mistress Windsor’s] movements were elegant. Like a picture come alive” Simile
5. “ … a battlefield littered with the corpse of dollies and wooden toys and stuffed animals.” Metaphor
6. “Dark shadows flickered and danced across her face …” Personification
7. “ . .. a gallery of bad dreams.” Metaphor
8. “Kip had poured his very heart into its [the letters] composition and to ignore that seemed cruel, like setting fire to a prayer.” Simile
9. “Molly thought to herself that it [the bag of money] sounded more like a bag of chains.” Simile
10. “… her every footstep an earthquake.” Metaphor
11. “Even now, he could feel it [the pit] at his heels, calling to him, taunting him. Personification
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16. “She picked it [the button] up, holding it between her fingers like a jewel.” Simile
17. “The debt, the loans . . . It’s like an anaconda coiled around me, squeezing me tighter and tighter.” Simile
18. “Black sap covered the place where the branch had been torn off, like blood from a wound.” Simile
19. “They had enough oil to set the world ablaze.” Hyperbole
20. “Molly started up at the tree, its black branches spreading out like a poison across the moonless sky.” Simile
21. “The house crackled and roared like a giant’s funeral pyre.” Simile
22. “There had to be a weak spot somewhere – a soft underbelly, a chink in the armor . . .” Metaphor
23. “Little embers swirled gently through the air like snowflakes.” Simile
24. “Molly stared at the mountain of fire….” Metaphor