

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**
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Simile

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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**
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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**