

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Lesson 1

Simile and Metaphor – What are they?

Figurative language is a tool that an author or uses to help the reader visualize (or see) what is happening in a story or poem.

Some common types of figurative language are: simile, metaphor, alliteration, onomatopoeia, idiom, puns, and sensory language.

THE SIMILE

A simile is a comparison using like or as. It usually compares two dissimilar objects.

For example: **His feet were as big as boats**. We are comparing the size of feet to boats.

Using the poem below underline all of the similes. Decide which items are being compared.

THE METAPHOR

A metaphor states that one thing is something else. **It is a comparison, but it does NOT use like or as to make the comparison.**

For example: Her hair is silk. The sentence is comparing (or stating) that hair is silk.

Take a piece of blank white paper and fold it into fourths. In one block, write a simile and illustrate it. In the block immediately to the right, write the same sentence as a metaphor. Do the same for the other two blocks.

Identifying Similes and Metaphors

Decide whether each sentence contains a simile or a metaphor.

Write the word SIMILE if the sentence contains a simile.

Write the word METAPHOR if the sentence contains a metaphor.

1. The baby was like an octopus, grabbing at all the cans on the grocery store shelves.
2. As the teacher entered the room she muttered under her breath, "This class is like a three-ring circus!"
3. The giant's steps were thunder as he ran toward Jack.
4. The pillow was a cloud when I put my head upon it after a long day.
5. I feel like a limp dishrag.
6. Those girls are like two peas in a pod.
7. The fluorescent light was the sun during our test.
8. No one invites Harold to parties because he's a wet blanket.
9. The bar of soap was a slippery eel during the dog's bath.
10. Ted was as nervous as a cat with a long tail in a room full of rocking chairs.

Identifying The Words and Meaning of Metaphors and Simile

On your own paper or the computer's word processor, find the metaphor and write it down, and write the words being compared on your paper. Write the meaning of the simile or metaphor based on the context of the sentence.

For Example : In Number 1 the meaning is that the baby was grabbing everything, it was almost as if it had lots of arms. (He wasn't an Octopus!)

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