

Similes and Metaphors

Thursday: Similes and Metaphors

Similes and metaphors are often confused.
This work will help you to sort them out.

Simile - when something is 'like' or 'as' something.

E.g. The flower was sweet like honey. The flower was as sweet as honey.

Metaphor - when the object becomes what it is being compared to.

E.g. He was a roaring lion. (He wasn't like a roaring lion, or roaring as loud as a lion).

Challenge 1:

See if you can sort these sentences into simile (S) and metaphor (M):

Her coat was as smooth as silk.	She was as cunning as a fox.	His ears were cauliflowers.
	It was raining cats and dogs.	
He was a sneaky snake towards his friends.		His words were like music to my ears.

Challenge 2:

Start with one of the examples and build a conjunction in to extend the idea.

E.g. His ears were cauliflowers left in the reduced section at Sainsbury's.

Similes and Metaphors

Look at the following text and identify the **similes** and **metaphors** buried in the sentences:

The Door

Creaking like a floorboard, the door cautiously opened. Eeeek. As it moved, its hinges were shattering glass, emitting a shrill, squeaky sound. Dust tumbled from the door frame as delicately as a floating feather. My heart raced. The air was filled with grime, dancing in the shafts of light. What lay beyond the door had been a mystery for many years. I took a deep breath. I was an archaeologist, no, an adventurer, treading in the footsteps that had been undisturbed for so long. What would I find? My eyes were darts, searching for the target. What would I spot first? My lips became trembling leaves, my fists clenched like a bunch of bananas. Then I saw it...

Challenge 1:

Write similes for these items: an aeroplane, a runner and a feather.

Monday: Similes and Metaphors

Extending ideas.

Look at these similes:

- The car shot as fast as a speeding bullet.
- He sneezed as loud as banging drums.
- Her skin was like silk.
- He lay in the sun like a hippopotamus.

Challenge 1:

Extend the similes by adding a conjunction e.g. which, but, so, because, although...

She cried like a baby

↑
simile

although

↑
conjunction

the sadness never disappeared.

↑
extended sentence

Challenge 2:

Use metaphors too. Extend those ideas.

Monday: Similes and Metaphors

'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes

The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees,
The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,
The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,
And the highwayman came riding-
Riding - riding -
The highwayman came riding, up to the old inn-door.

There are really good examples of **metaphors** in this poem.
Can you spot them?

Questions (challenge 1)

- 1.What does the writer compare to a ghostly galleon?
- 2.Use a dictionary - what does 'inn' mean?
- 3.Where did the Highwayman stop?

Questions (challenge 2/3)

- 1.Which metaphor do you think is most effective?
- 2.Describe the setting, based on the verse you have read here.
- 3.How do you think metaphors help you to understand the scene?
- 4.What do phrases such as 'riding-riding-riding' tell you about the Highwayman?

Extra challenge: Similes and Metaphors

Like dopey dormice snuffling quietly,
Like chicks chattering softly,
Like trains rumbling in the distance,
→ The little baby sleeps.

Like banging drums and clashing cymbals,
Like clattering dishes and nattering adults,
Like howling dogs and bouncing puppies,
→ The school boy returns home.

This poem is made of plenty of similes.
Similes about being loud and similes about being quiet.

Challenge:

Add 2 lines to the first verse, before the author writes '...The little baby sleeps.'
Add 2 lines to the second verse, before the author writes '...The school boy returns home.'

LA Challenge:

Collect all of the verbs from this poem and use a thesaurus to see if you can find better ones.