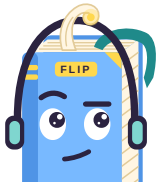
Name _____ Date _____

Mighty metaphors

A metaphor says one thing **is** another, to paint a strong word picture.

1 Learn



A **metaphor** says one thing **is** something else, with **no like or as**. It isn't really true, but it makes the picture feel stronger.



Simile The moon was <u>like</u> a lantern.

Metaphor The moon <u>was</u> a lantern.

Take away **like**, and the moon doesn't just look like a lantern: it **is** one, glowing and lighting the way.

Worked example: "The classroom was a zoo."

1. **Is it really true?** No: there were no real animals. So it's a word picture.
2. **Is there like or as?** No. It says the classroom **was** a zoo, so it's a **metaphor**.
3. **What does it suggest?** The classroom was noisy and wild, with children charging about like animals.

Flip's tip: not every **is** or **was** makes a metaphor. "The car is red" is simply true. A metaphor joins two **different** things that can't really be the same.

Warm up: turn each simile into a metaphor.

The sea was like a sheet of glass.

_____

Ava's laugh was like a bubbling stream.

_____

The stars were like tiny lamps.

_____

The baby's skin was as soft as velvet.

_____

Grown-ups: a simile and a metaphor both compare. The only difference is the like or as. Ask, "Does it say it is like something, or that it is something?"

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Simile to metaphor

You need: this sheet, a pencil, and people, pets or rooms at home.

1. Choose something at home: the kitchen at teatime, a sleepy pet, a messy cupboard.
2. Together, make a simile about it: "The kitchen at teatime is **like** a busy station."
3. Cross out **like** or **as** to make a metaphor: "The kitchen at teatime **is** a busy station."
4. Read both aloud. Which sounds stronger? Why? Write it down, then choose something new.

Simile	Metaphor	Which is stronger? Why?

Grown-ups: there's no right answer to "which is stronger?". Many people feel a metaphor is bolder because it says the thing really *is* the other thing. What matters is a reason.

3 Practise

A. Write **S** for simile, **M** for metaphor or **L** for literal.

☐ 1. Mr Hall was a dragon when he was cross.

☐ 2. The car is red.

☐ 3. The waves were like galloping horses.

☐ 4. Grandma's garden is a jungle.

☐ 5. Leo's mum is a nurse.

☐ 6. Snowflakes were feathers falling from the sky.

Mighty metaphors

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B. Draw a line from each metaphor to what it **suggests**.

Her words were knives. ●	● It was very hot.
Leo is a night owl. ●	● It was long, thin and curvy.
The road was a ribbon. ●	● What she said was hurtful.
The playground was an oven. ●	● He likes staying up late.

C. Write a metaphor about each one.

a thunderstorm

a very cold morning

D. Sam wrote, "The sun was like a gold coin," and called it a metaphor.

What is it really?

Rewrite it as a metaphor.

Challenge

Mia says, "'My dog is a Labrador' is a metaphor, because it says one thing is another." Is she right? Explain.

I can... Tick when you can.

- [ ] spot a metaphor that says one thing is another
- [ ] tell a metaphor from a simile and from a plain, true sentence
- [ ] explain what a metaphor suggests