

## LO: I can understand what metaphors and similes are.

Poetic devices

This week we have looked at a range of poetic devices which help make poems more interesting, fun and enjoyable to read.

We learnt about **rhythm and rhyme**. Then we moved on to **alliteration and onomatopoeia**.

Today we are learning about two more; **metaphors and similes**.

Often in our writing we want to compare something to another thing to make our writing richer, or to help the reader to understand the picture we have in our head.

Metaphors and similes can help us with this.

**Metaphors** are used to describe something **as** another thing. Such as:

- The journey to Pickering was a nightmare.
- A blanket of snow fell on Slingsby.

### Metaphor Example

#### The Night is a Big Black Cat

The Night is a big black cat  
The moon is her topaz eye,  
The stars are the mice she hunts at night,  
In the field of the sultry sky.



*By G. Orr Clark*

**Similes** are used to say that something is like (similar) another thing, using 'as' or 'like'.

- The journey to Pickering was like a nightmare
- The snow covered Slingsby like a blanket
- As pretty as a picture

This poem uses similes

Flint

An emerald is as green as grass,  
A ruby red as blood;  
A sapphire shines as blue as heaven;  
A flint lies in the mud.

A diamond is a brilliant stone,  
To catch the world's desire;  
An opal holds a fiery spark;  
But a flint holds fire.

Christina Rossetti

## 😊 Activity

### Simile or Metaphor?

If the sentence contains a simile, colour it blue. If it is a metaphor, colour it yellow.

The car moved like a snail.

The house was a zoo.

The librarian was as sweet as candy.

The stars are diamonds in the sky.

The puppy was as fast as a cheetah.

The test was a breeze.

He is a walking dictionary.

Abigail is as tall as a giraffe.

My dad is a teddy bear.

My brother eats like a pig.

Her heart was as big as the ocean.

Peter is an angel.

☺ Activity: see how many similes you can come up with to describe yourself:

I am as...

1. Quick as
2. Slow as
3. Small as
4. Large as
5. Sad as
6. Happy as
7. Nice as
8. Mean as
9. Cold as
10. Hot as
11. Weak as
12. Strong as
13. Loud as
14. Quiet as

☺ Challenge yourself!

Metaphor: write a sentence about lockdown that includes a metaphor.

Simile: write a sentence about winter that includes a simile.

This is a very descriptive poem. I hope you enjoy reading it. Can you find the metaphor?

### The Sea

The sea is a hungry dog.  
Giant and grey.  
He rolls on the beach all day.  
With his clashing teeth and shaggy jaws  
Hour upon hour he gnaws  
The rumbling, tumbling stones,  
And 'Bones, bones, bones!'  
The giant sea-dog moans,  
Licking his greasy paws.

And when the night wind roars  
And the moon rocks in the stormy cloud,  
He bounds to his feet and snuffs and  
sniffs,  
Shaking his wet slides over the cliffs,  
And howls and hallos long and loud.

But on quiet days in May or June,  
When even the grasses on the dune  
Play no more their reedy tune,  
With his head between his paws  
He lies on the sandy shores  
So quiet, so quiet he scarcely snores.

By James Reeves

This poem also uses metaphor:

### **My big cardboard box by John Foster.**

My big cardboard box is a tall sailing ship  
That skims across the foam.  
I load it with treasure from pirate wrecks  
Before I head for home.

My big cardboard box is a silver rocket  
That takes me to the stars.  
I race through space to set up a base  
And explore the surface of Mars.

My big cardboard box is a huge aeroplane.  
I fly to golden sands,  
Where lollipop trees and ice-cream flowers  
Grow in a magic land.

There's nothing like a big cardboard box  
To take you far away,  
When you're stuck inside with nothing to do  
On a wet and windy day.

This is poem which uses similes and metaphors: can you spot the difference?

## Cat

He's a vicious tiger  
His claws are like knives

His eyes are like security cameras looking for trouble

He's black trouble  
He's a sports car zooming across the street

He's a dirty missile rocketing to his owner

He's a violin to my ears

He's my cat!