

Metaphor



Metaphor

Figurative – using or containing a non-literal sense of a word or words. 

Metaphor is the **figurative** device that compares something directly with something else in order to create a **resemblance**.

Resemblance – similar in appearance or quality to somebody or something else. 

What Is It?

“The moon was a ghostly galleon, tossed upon cloudy seas.”
‘The Highwayman’, Alfred Noyes.



Image – a picture of something.

We know that a ship can't be a ghost, but using this metaphor forms the eerie **image** that Alfred Noyes wanted to create for the reader.

Why Use It?

Using metaphors enables the writer to **economically** and **powerfully** add **specific** description to something.

Powerfully – able to produce a strong effect on people's ideas or emotions.

Specific – exact and detailed.

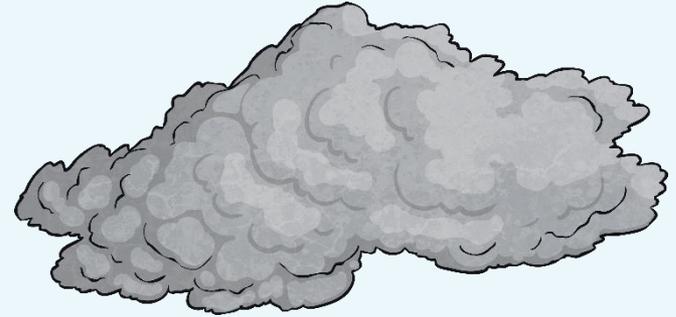
Don't tell me why.

“The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,”



How to Identify a Metaphor

Metaphors are easy to spot because the **comparisons** between the descriptions of one thing to another do not contain 'like' or



X

Comparisons – presenting two or more things to discover similarities and differences between them.

'It was raining cats and dogs'
and not
'It was raining like cats and dogs'.

How to Use Metaphors for Description

Metaphors can give sentences more detail about description, interest and power. Here are some metaphorical sentences for describing parts of the body.

Her spidery hand quickly wrapped round the boy's wrist.

His leather-soled feet ignored the sharp shingle on the beach.

Dr Roper's lips slithered into a smile.

How do each of these metaphors add detail to the description of the features?

How to Use Metaphors for Description

Now let's try to create some of our own metaphors to add description to other body parts...



Spin



How to Use Metaphors for Interest

Here are some metaphorical sentences for adding interest to some objects.

The orange peel football slowly dribbled to a halt.

The fully-clothed tree swayed in the breeze.

The racing water babbled with joy.

How do each of these metaphors add interest to the objects?

How to Use Metaphors for Interest

Now, try some of your own...



Spin



How to Use Metaphors for Power

Here are some metaphorical sentences for adding power to the descriptions. Often, animal qualities are used to draw comparisons.

His gorilla fists punched the air in victory.

Her crocodile jaws snapped shut round the apple.

Cassi, the racing snake, easily won the 100m sprint.

How do each of these metaphors add power to the descriptions?

How to Use Metaphors for Power

Now, try some of your own...



Spin



Try It Yourself!

Use the Matching Metaphor Game to match the cards to complete the metaphorical sentences.

The moon

ANSWER

The train lines are

ANSWER

Do the metaphors add description, interest, power or something else to the sentences?

Vocabulary for Verse

In poetry, the vocabulary you choose can set the mood. As you have seen from the extracts of Alfred Noyes' poem 'The Highwayman', metaphors can be very effective.

Try using different metaphorical detail to create more description, interest and power in your poetry or prose.

For example:

Time flew by. (description)

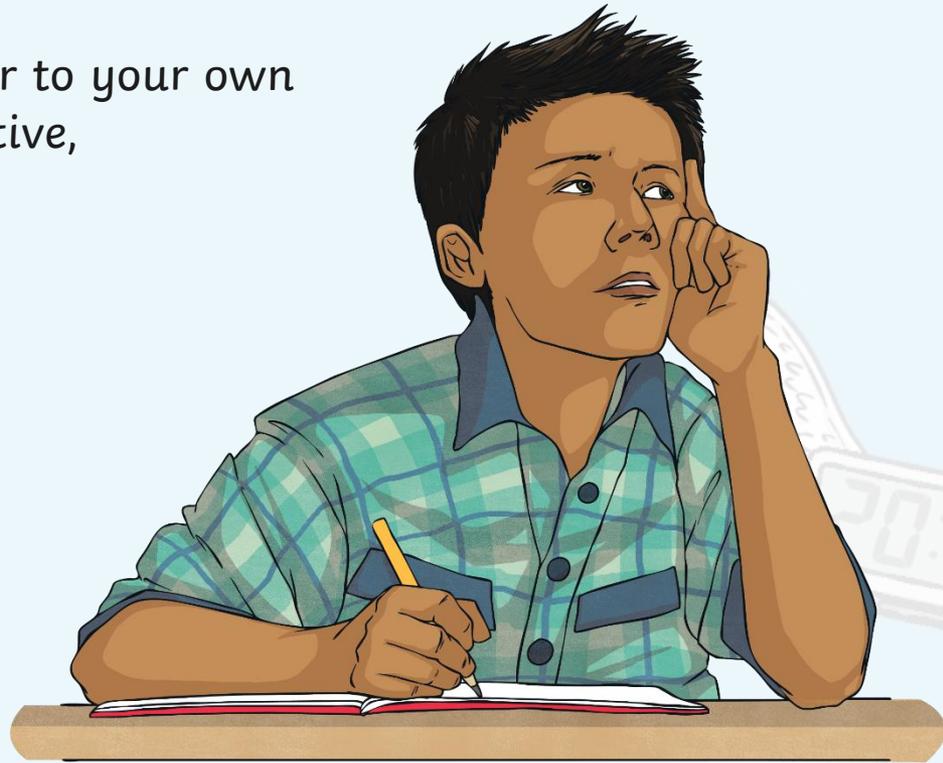
Swimming in a sea of people, we braved the sales. (interest)

A tidal wave of donations flooded in after the television appeal. (power)

Have a Go!

Find some metaphorical words and phrases in poems or prose that you know. What effect does it have? Does it add to the description, interest or power?

Have a go at adding metaphor to your own work to make it more descriptive, interesting or powerful.



Getting You Started

Here are some examples of metaphors to include in your writing:

This lesson is a **recipe** for disaster.

He **showered** her with gifts.

I have **butter fingers**.

She **pulled the wool over my eyes**.

You are my **sunshine**.

A **blanket** of snow fell.

They **hatched** a plan.

My name is **mud**.

