

1. Simile

Definition

A **simile** is a figure of speech that compares two different things using the words "**like**" or "**as**" to show similarity. It helps make descriptions more vivid and interesting.

Examples from the Poem

1. "Creeping like snail"

- **Meaning:** The school-boy walks to school very slowly, similar to how a snail moves.
- **Explanation:** The word "like" compares the boy's slow walking to a snail's pace.

2. "Sighing like furnace"

- **Meaning:** The lover sighs loudly, like the sound of a noisy boiler (furnace).
- **Explanation:** The word "like" compares the lover's sighs to the loud noise of a furnace.

3. "Bearded like the pard"

- **Meaning:** The soldier's beard is compared to the fur of a leopard (pard).
- **Explanation:** The word "like" shows the similarity between the soldier's beard and a leopard's fur.

Additional Examples

- Her smile is as bright **as the sun**.
- He runs **like a cheetah** on the track.
- The baby's skin is soft **as cotton**.

2. Metaphor

Definition

A **metaphor** is a figure of speech that compares two different things by saying one thing **is** another, without using "like" or "as." It creates a direct comparison to show they are the same in some way.

Examples from the Poem

1. "All the world's a stage"

- **Meaning:** The world is compared to a stage where life happens like a play.
- **Explanation:** The metaphor says the world **is** a stage, not just similar to one.

2. "All the men and women merely players"

- **Meaning:** People are compared to actors who play roles in the "play" of life.

- **Explanation:** The metaphor directly calls people "players" (actors) in life.

3. "The bubble reputation"

- **Meaning:** The soldier's fame is compared to a bubble that bursts quickly.
- **Explanation:** Fame is called a "bubble," implying it is fragile and short-lived.

Additional Examples

- Life **is a journey** full of surprises.
- Her eyes **are stars** shining in the night.
- Time **is a thief** that steals our moments.

Key Differences Between Simile and Metaphor

Feature	Simile	Metaphor
Uses	"Like" or "as"	No "like" or "as"
Example	He is as brave as a lion. He is a lion in battle.	
Comparison	Shows similarity	Says one thing is another

Exercises for Practice

Exercise 1: Identify Simile or Metaphor

Read the following sentences and write whether they are a **simile** or a **metaphor**.

1. The classroom was a zoo during the break.
2. Her voice is like a melody.
3. Time is a river flowing endlessly.
4. He fights like a tiger in the game.
5. The moon is a silver coin in the sky.

Answers:

1. Metaphor (classroom **is** a zoo).
2. Simile (voice **is like** a melody).
3. Metaphor (time **is** a river).
4. Simile (fights **like** a tiger).
5. Metaphor (moon **is** a silver coin).

Exercise 2: Find Similes and Metaphors in the Poem

Reread the poem and list **two more similes** and **two more metaphors** (other than the ones already mentioned). Explain their meanings.

Sample Answer:

- **Simile:** Not applicable (the poem has only three clear similes, already listed).
- **Metaphor:**
 1. "His acts being seven ages"
 - **Meaning:** A man's life is compared to a play with seven acts (stages).
 - **Explanation:** Life is directly called a series of "acts" like in a play.
 2. "Second childishness and mere oblivion"
 - **Meaning:** Old age is compared to a second childhood and a state of forgetting.
 - **Explanation:** Old age is called "childishness" and "oblivion," implying a return to a childlike state.

Note for Students: If you can't find more similes, focus on understanding the three listed ones.

Exercise 3: Create Your Own Similes and Metaphors

Write two similes and two metaphors to describe the following:

- A fast runner
- A bright student

Sample Answer:

- **Similes:**
 1. The runner is as fast **as a rocket**.
 2. The student's mind is bright **like a shining star**.
- **Metaphors:**
 1. The runner **is a lightning bolt** speeding past.
 2. The student **is a glowing lamp** in the classroom.

Task for Students: Try writing your own similes and metaphors for a pet, a teacher, or a friend.

Exercise 4: Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences with a simile or metaphor. Specify which one you used.

1. Her laughter was _____ (simile).
2. The stormy sea _____ (metaphor).
3. His anger burned _____ (simile).
4. Life _____ (metaphor).

Sample Answers:

1. Her laughter was **like a cheerful bell** (simile).
 2. The stormy sea **is a roaring beast** (metaphor).
 3. His anger burned **like a wildfire** (simile).
 4. Life **is a rollercoaster** (metaphor).
-

www.educationobserver.com