

Similes in Use - Poetry

name: _____

A simile is a form of figurative language that uses the words like or as to compare people, events, or objects. Similes are used by writers to be more creative and colourful with their words. Read the following poem and answer the questions on the next page.

Swoosh, Boom, Crunch, Howl

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The sun rises higher and higher, like a blossoming flower, as the children play...

Beach, Beach, Beach

The zephyr catches my skin like a wide receiver playing football...

Swoosh, Swoosh, Swoosh

The crashing waves sound like a head-on collision...

Boom, Boom, Boom

The sand crunches under my feet like cereal in my mouth...

Crunch, Crunch, Crunch

The salty water is carried with the wind...

Howl, Howl, Howl

The gulls soar higher than the clouds...

Swoosh, Swoosh, Swoosh

The child crashes to the ground like a rock slide...

Boom, Boom, Boom

The man walks on shells that feel like needles...

Crunch, Crunch, Crunch

The dog is angered by the birds...

Howl, Howl, Howl

The kite flutters like a plane...

Swoosh, Swoosh, Swoosh

The afternoon thunder blasts like a cannon...

Boom, Boom, Boom

The child snacks on some chips that sound like glass...

Crunch, Crunch, Crunch

The night has fallen and the coyotes holler like babies...

Howl, Howl, Howl

The sun rises again higher and higher, like a blossoming flower as the children play...

Beach, Beach, Beach

This poem an example of a 'free verse' poem. The poet doesn't have to follow any rules, unlike other poems that you have studied (ie. acrostic, haiku, cinquain, diamante).

The poet also uses the following writing techniques to make the poem more effective.

REPETITION: - repetition brings a reader's attention to certain parts of a poem.
 - ie. Beach, Beach, Beach and Swoosh, Swoosh, Swoosh

STRUCTURE: - structure helps a poem to flow
 - In this case, most lines start with a noun followed by a verb

SIMILES:

1) There are many creative similes used in the above poem. Choose three of your favourite similes from the poem and explain why you like them.

A) _____

B) _____

C) _____

2) What is the poem about? and where is its setting?

3) Why do you think the poet repeats the first two lines of the poem at the end.

4) Now it's your turn! Write a new line for the poem. Your line must follow the pattern of starting with a noun verb, and have a simile that fits the poem's theme.

Metaphors in Use - Poetry

name: _____

A metaphor is a form of figurative language that compares people, events, or objects without using like or as. Metaphors are used by writers to be more creative and colourful with their words. Read the following poem and answer the questions on the next page.

"A Book Is"

Adapted from a poem by Kathy Leeuwenburg

A B o o k I s

A book is

an open flower

scented pages, fragrant hours

a crafty fox

surprising in its clever plots

a fairy's wings

with princesses, enchanted kings

a windowsill

where breezy thoughts are never still

an hour glass

whose pages flow as hours pass

a lock and key

that opens doors and sets minds free

an ancient clock

that speaks the times but never talks

an open letter

when read again the friendship's better

an apple core

with seeds inside for growing more

a trusted friend

that keeps its secret to the end



1) There are many creative metaphors used in the above poem. Choose three of your favourite metaphors from the poem and explain why you like them.

A) _____

B) _____

C) _____

2) What is the rhyming scheme (pattern) that the poet uses?

3) Each metaphor is written with a similar pattern. What pattern do you notice in the structure of the poem and its metaphors? *Hint: Look at the words that start each line and the number of lines that make up each metaphor.*

4) Now it's your turn! Write a new metaphor for the poem. Your metaphor must follow a similar structural pattern, and have a metaphor that fits the poem's theme of books and reading.
