

The Quality of Simile - Classic & Contemporary

Simile: A figure of speech that makes an explicit comparison between two unlike things, using the words *like* or *as*.

For example:

My shoes were like falcons, enabling me to fly across the basketball court.

Classic poets across the centuries have used similes to create a more in-depth and rich understanding of the feelings they seek to express.

For example:

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
(Langston Hughes)

My love is like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June.
My love is like a melodie,
That's sweetly play'd in tune.
(Robert Burns)

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats high over the hills.
(William Wordsworth)

Hip-Hop artists also use similes as a tool to create a more in-depth and rich understanding of their feelings.

For example:

I love my baby's features
Like the creator loves all creatures.
(Mos Def)

I'm stuck to my mattress like crazy glue.
(Tupac Shakur)

Strong as cognac I got the knack to rhyme.
(LL Cool J)

When you liken one experience to another (using "like" or "as"), you create a simile.

For example:

- I am as gentle as a kitten.
- Jane dresses like a rainbow.
- Joe is as smart as Einstein.

Poetry Writing Exercise: Simile

- Learning Objective:** Students will identify and utilize the poetic device of simile.
Standards Addressed: 9/10 W&O 1.3, 1.4; LRA 3.7; R 1.1, 1.2; 11/12 W&O 1.1, 1.2; W 2.2; LRA 3.4
Materials needed: This worksheet.
Methodology: See below.

Create 3 SIMILES comparing sports to an object using “like” or “as.”

For example: Football is a like a war.

1. _____ .
2. _____ .
3. _____ .

Create 3 SIMILES comparing a holiday to an object using using “like” or “as.”

For example: Halloween is like a candy store.

1. _____ .
2. _____ .
3. _____ .

Create 3 METAPHORS comparing a person to an object using “like” or “as.”

For example: My father is like an encyclopedia.

1. _____ .
2. _____ .
3. _____ .

Write a poem using at least 3 SIMILES comparing something important to you to how you feel about it.

For example:

Music Simile Poem

*Hip-Hop is like a massage
to my ears.*

*Hip-Hop is like the message
of my tears.*

*Hip-Hop is as important
as life,*

*Because Hip-Hop is art
that gives insight.*
