

Max's Magnificent Metaphor and Simile Workshop

Learning objective: To identify, classify, and create figurative language, specifically similes and metaphors, to enhance descriptive writing.

Max the monkey is busy organising his collection of descriptive phrases! Your task is to sort these sentences into two groups: Similes (which compare using 'as' or 'like') and Metaphors (which say one thing IS another). Once you have categorised them, use your creative skills to complete the deeper thinking challenges. For the 'Greater Depth' questions, provide detailed justifications for your language choices.

Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Comparison · Imagery · Figurative · Vivid · Description

1. Sort the following phrases into 'Simile' or 'Metaphor': 1) The stars were diamonds in the velvet sky. 2) The river flowed like a winding silver ribbon. 3) The old oak tree was a wise guardian. 4) The wind whistled like a lonely traveller. (4 marks)

2. Explain why the author might choose a metaphor instead of a simile when describing 'The old oak tree'. How does it change the reader's perception? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the effect of the phrase 'The river flowed like a silver ribbon' versus simply saying 'The river was shiny'. Which is more effective and why? (2 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you were describing a stormy sea, would a simile or a metaphor create a more powerful image for the reader? Give an example to support your view. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the tone of a piece of writing if every sentence contained a metaphor? Discuss the balance of figurative language. (2 marks)

6. Create your own original simile to describe Max the monkey moving through the jungle, and a metaphor to describe his love for solving maths puzzles. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring a 'Velvet Sky filled with Diamond Stars'. Around the border of your drawing, write three original metaphors that describe the moon, the clouds, and the night breeze.



Extension challenge: Write a short, descriptive paragraph (5-8 sentences) about a bustling market scene. You must include at least two similes and two metaphors. Afterwards, highlight your figurative language in two different colours and write a brief reflection explaining why your chosen comparisons help the reader 'see' the market more clearly.