

Metaphor and Simile

Comparative Techniques



Direct and Indirect Comparisons

Metaphor and simile are both used to make comparisons. Metaphor is a direct comparison (something is/was something else) and a simile is an indirect comparison (something is like or as something else).

Examples:

Metaphor: He was a super-charged ferrari running towards the canteen.

Simile: He ran as fast as a super-charged ferrari running towards the canteen.

Why Use Comparative Techniques?

Composers use comparative techniques, like metaphors and similes, to help the responder understand an idea more clearly.

For example, if you wanted to tell the responder just how big a character's ego was, you might say "their ego could have formed an extra planet in the solar system". This is a metaphor.

What is being the person's ego being compared to? Why?

Working Together

As class we will change these metaphors to similes.

1. She is a ray of sunshine in the classroom.
2. The dog was a bullet out of the gate.
3. The snail-train finally approached the platform.

By Yourself

Change these similes to metaphors, and then explain the purpose for the comparison (what is the composer trying to explain?):

1. The baby was as quiet as a mouse all night!
2. The teacher looked like an angry cane toad about to pounce.
3. It as like a zoo here on the first day of school.

Finding Similes and Metaphors

Copy the following paragraph into your book. Highlight the metaphor and simile and describe the reason they've used.

Harold knew that Debby was a good sister, but she annoyed him very easily. When she kept nagging him it was like nails on a chalkboard, he just could not put up with it! He kept telling his parents that Debby was the devil, but they wouldn't listen to him.