Writing Basics → Using Figurative Language
Level: Middle School

Figurative language plays with words in order to enhance their meaning. Similes and metaphors are comparative. They compare two unlike things to give you a rich mental picture. Similes use “like” or “as” to make a direct comparison. Metaphors make an indirect comparison and therefore do not use “like” or “as.”

Build your own similes and metaphors by brainstorming. Each exercise notes a quality. Brainstorm a list of nouns that could be linked with that quality. Choose two that are quite different and build a simile or a metaphor. The first one is done for you.

1. hard

| rock | muscles | work | ground | stale toast | fall | steel plate |

Simile → The ground was as hard as a steel plate.
Metaphor → ____________________________________________________________________

2. wet

Simile → ____________________________________________________________________
Metaphor → ____________________________________________________________________

3. boring

Simile → ____________________________________________________________________
Metaphor → ____________________________________________________________________
4. empty

Simile → 
Metaphor → 

5. happy

Simile → 
Metaphor → 

6. rich

Simile → 
Metaphor → 

Time4Writing provides these writing materials to teachers and parents at no cost. More presentations, handouts, interactive online exercises, and video lessons are freely available at Time4Writing.com. Consider linking to these resources from your school, teacher or homeschool educational site. We simply ask that these materials maintain the visibility of the Time4Writing logo and copyright information. They can be copied and used for educational purposes, and are not for resale. For questions or feedback, email info@time4writing.com.

Copyright 2016 Time4Writing. All Right Reserved.