

What is Metaphor?

Worksheet

Metaphor is a direct comparison between unlike things without 'like' or 'as.' It lets readers understand abstract ideas through familiar images — making writing more vivid and emotionally powerful.

Questions

- Which is a metaphor?
 - Her voice was as soft as silk
 - That building is a masterpiece
 - The flower was like a sunset
 - The ocean is vast
- 'The world is a stage.' What does this metaphor imply?
 - The world is literally a theater
 - Life is a performance; people play roles
 - Stages exist in the world
 - Everyone watches the world
- What makes metaphor powerful compared to literal language?
 - It's longer
 - It creates vivid, unexpected connections
 - It's always more accurate
 - It's easier to understand
- 'The city is a jungle' is metaphor because...
 - It uses 'is' not 'like'
 - The city has jungles
 - Jungles have cities
 - It's poetic
- Interpret the metaphor: 'Her heart was a stone.' What does it suggest?
- Rewrite 'The room was dark and gloomy' using metaphor.
- Explain why 'Life is a journey' is an effective metaphor.
- Define: What is metaphor?
- Define: How does metaphor differ from simile?
- Define: What is extended metaphor?

Answer Key

1. B) That building is a masterpiece — 'That building is a masterpiece' is a direct comparison without 'like/as.' Others use 'like/as' (similes).
2. B) Life is a performance; people play roles — Life/people are actors; actions have an audience; roles are performed. Metaphor suggests life's performative nature.
3. B) It creates vivid, unexpected connections — Metaphor's power lies in unexpected comparison — it invites deeper thought and emotional resonance.
4. A) It uses 'is' not 'like' — Metaphor uses IS (direct); simile uses LIKE. Here, city IS jungle — a direct, bold comparison.
5. Direct comparison: heart (emotions) IS a stone (hard, unyielding). Interpretation: She is emotionally cold, unmoved, or indifferent. Effect: One image conveys a complex emotional state.
6. Literal: describes physical darkness. Metaphoric: 'The room was a cave' or 'The room swallowed light.' Effect: Metaphor makes darkness more vivid and isolating — appeals to multiple senses and emotions.
7. Abstract (life) mapped to concrete (journey). Journey implies: progress, obstacles, destination, companions, choices. Readers instantly understand life stages (starting out, hitting rough roads, reaching milestones). One metaphor unlocks multiple meanings.
8. A direct comparison between unlike things without 'like' or 'as' (e.g., 'His temper is a volcano').
9. Metaphor: 'He is a lion.' Simile: 'He is like a lion.' Metaphor is bolder; simile is gentler.
10. A metaphor developed over several sentences or paragraphs (e.g., a poem using 'life as a river' throughout).

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