

As Red as a Rose

WORD CHOICE

A **simile** is a comparison of two different things. Usually, the word *like* or *as* is used to show the comparison. Writers use similes as a clever way to describe something and to make their writing more interesting and entertaining. Using similes adds color to a sentence and gives the reader a visual image of the comparison.

For example, the sentence *Alyssa's lips are as red as a rose* tells the reader just how red Alyssa's lips are. Comparing Alyssa's lips to a rose helps to create that image in the reader's mind.

Directions: Circle the words or phrases that are being compared in the sentences below. Then, underline the words that are used to make the comparison.

1. Every time I go into his office, I am like a bug under a magnifying glass.
2. I could hear the coyote's howl as clear as a bell.
3. Once Ian turned in his test paper, he felt as free as a bird.
4. After Nathan paid admission to the park, his wallet was as flat as a pancake.
5. Kelly always seems as happy as a lark.
6. That assignment was like a walk in the park.
7. The sight of land was as welcome as an oasis in the desert.
8. When Carlotta had the flu, she was as sick as a dog.
9. Todd's golf shot was as straight as an arrow.
10. Michelle and Carley are like two peas in a pod.

The Meaning of Metaphors

WORD CHOICE

A **metaphor** is another type of a comparison, but it is less obvious than a simile. Metaphors do not use the words *like* or *as*. Thus, the comparison is not as direct. Read the example below.

Kevin followed in his father's footsteps.

Kevin did not actually follow his father around and step where his father had just stepped. The metaphor means that Kevin followed a path in life similar to that of his father.

Directions: Read the sentences below. On the lines, briefly explain the meaning of each metaphor.

1. Darkness was a cover for their escape. _____

2. Jane's comment really ruffled Kyle's feathers. _____

3. Dad was a bear when he skipped breakfast. _____

4. In the summer, our minds sometimes go flabby. _____

5. Samuel used his eagle eye to spot Cara's missing earring.

6. She paved the way for women in sports. _____

7. Kyle knows so much trivia, he is a walking encyclopedia.
