

Poetic Devices

Metaphors



Metaphors

A Metaphor is a comparison between two things without using the words “like” or “as”.

Example 1:

- She was an angel.
- This compares a girl to an angel. Angels are thought to be beautiful, pure, and innocent. We can infer that the girl is either beautiful or very well behaved.
- This is a DIRECT METAPHOR because the line directly states that one thing IS another.
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Metaphors

Example 2:

- The moonlight floats upon the waves.
- This compares the moonlight to a boat on the water. The moon's reflection in the water seems to be floating on the water like a boat would.
- This is an INDIRECT METAPHOR. The line doesn't explicitly say that the moonlight IS a boat, but it implies that they are similar by giving the moonlight qualities of a boat, or something else that can float.

Metaphor Examples

- Life is a stage, and all the men and women merely players.
- His cotton candy words did not appeal to her taste.
- Kathy arrived at the grocery store with an army of children.
- The cat's eyes were fireflies in the dark.
- Sally's plan to get into college was a house of cards on a crooked table.
- She cut him down with her words.
- My dreams are flowers to which you are a bee.
- The clouds sailed across the sky.
- My job is the cancer of my dreams and aspirations.
- The teacher planted the seeds of wisdom.



Metaphor Poem

“Dreams” by Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow

Poetic Devices

Personification



Personification

Personification is giving human-like qualities to non-human things.

Examples:

The leaves danced in the wind.

The grave is lazy; it takes our bodies slowly.

The stars winked at me.

The darkness wrapped its arms around me.

The large rock refused to move.

The clouds are mean on this dark and rainy day.

The wind complained all day long.



Personification Poem

“The Sky is Low” by Emily Dickinson

The sky is low, the clouds are mean,
A travelling flake of snow
Across a barn or through a rut
Debates if it will go.

A narrow wind complains all day
How some one treated him;
Nature, like us, is sometimes caught
Without her diadem.



Personification Poem

“April Rain Song” by Langston Hughes

Let the rain kiss you

Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops

Let the rain sing you a lullaby

The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk

The rain makes running pools in the gutter

The rain plays a little sleep song on our roof at night

And I love the rain.

