

Poetic Devices

Similes



Definition

A **simile** is a comparison between two things using the words “like” or “as”.

Using a simile is a creative way to help readers understand something that is unknown to them, by comparing it to something that they are familiar with.

Examples

In each simile, underline the two things that are being compared and explain the meaning.

1. His hair was like the sun.
2. The trees were like dancers in the wind.
3. As the teacher entered the room she muttered under her breath, "This class is like a three-ring circus!"
4. Watching the show was like watching grass grow.
5. It's like shooting fish in a barrel.
6. Your explanation was as clear as mud.
7. Her stare was as cold as ice.
8. Her voice was like nails on a chalkboard.
9. Ted was as nervous as a cat with a long tail in a room full of rocking chairs.
10. Although they are twins, Joe and Joan are as different as night and day.

Writing Similes

Write a simile to describe each of the following pictures:



Write a simile to compare a friend of yours to something else.

Willow Tree



Ginkgo Tree



Willow and Ginkgo

by Eve Merriam

The willow is like an etching,
Fine-lined against the sky.
The ginkgo is like a crude sketch,
Hardly worthy to be signed.
The willow's music is like a soprano,
Delicate and thin.
The ginkgo's tune is like a chorus
With everyone joining in.
The willow is sleek as a velvet-nosed calf,
The ginkgo is leathery as an old bull.
The willow's branches are like silken thread;
The ginkgo's like stubby rough wool.

The willow is like a nymph with streaming hair;
Wherever it grows, there is green and gold and fair.
The willow dips to the water,
Protected and precious, like the king's favorite daughter.

The ginkgo forces its way through gray concrete;
Like a city child, it grows up in the street.
Thrust against the metal sky,
Somehow it survives and even thrives.

My eyes feast upon the willow,
But my heart goes to the ginkgo.

