

pronounced: MET-uh-for

## Metaphor (EnglishClub.com)

All the world's a stage,  
 And all the men and women merely players  
 They have their exits and their entrances  
 William Shakespeare

A **metaphor** is a figure of speech that says that one thing is another different thing. This allows us to use fewer words and forces the reader or listener to find the similarities.

The word metaphor comes from the Greek word *metapherein* (meaning "transfer").

The simplest form of metaphor is: "The [first thing] is a [second thing]."

Look at this example:

- Her **home** was a **prison**.

In the above sentence, we understand immediately that her home had some of the characteristics of a prison. Mainly, we imagine, she could not leave her home. She was trapped inside. Why it was a prison we do not know, but that would be clear from the context--perhaps her husband forced her to stay at home, perhaps she was afraid of the outside. We don't know, but the rest of the story would tell us. What is important here is that in five simple words we understand a lot about her environment, how she felt and how she behaved. In this sentence, "prison" is a metaphor.

Look at another example:

- **George** is a **sheep**.

What is one characteristic of sheep? They follow each other. So we can imagine that George is a follower, not a leader. In this sentence "sheep" is a metaphor.

Metaphors are very common in everyday language. But poets also like to use metaphors. In the following famous verse (from *The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes), can you spot three metaphors in the first three lines?

The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees,  
 The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,  
 The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,  
 And the highwayman came riding--  
 Riding--riding--  
 The highwayman came riding, up to the old inn-door.

Look at these examples of metaphors with sample sentences and meanings:

Metaphor example	Metaphorical sense	Original sense
I'm not an <b>angel</b> , but I wouldn't behave like that.	exemplary person	a spiritual being believed to be a messenger of God
America is a <b>melting pot</b> .	place where different peoples, styles and cultures are mixed together	a container in which metals or other materials are melted and mixed
John is a real <b>pig</b> when he eats.	greedy person	a four-legged animal kept for meat (pork)
My father is a <b>rock</b> .	very strong or reliable person	a hard, mineral material made of stone
How could she marry a <b>snake</b> like that!	traitor	a long, limbless reptile (eg: cobra, python, viper)

The policeman let him off with a <b>yellow card</b> .	warning	(in soccer) a yellow card that the referee shows to players when cautioning them
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All the above metaphors (the simplest form) are nouns. But there are other ways of making metaphors, for example with verbs or adjectives. Here are some examples:

Metaphor example	Original sense of the word (example)
The committee <b>shot</b> her ideas <b>down</b> one by one.	Anti-aircraft guns shoot down planes.
The private detective <b>dug up</b> enough evidence to convince the police to act.	Dogs like to bury bones and dig them up later.
He <b>broke into</b> her conversation.	Burglars break into buildings.
The new movie was very popular. People <b>flocked</b> to see it.	Birds flock together before they migrate.
His head was <b>spinning</b> with ideas.	Some computer hard drives spin at over 10,000 revolutions per minute.
Reading that book <b>kindled</b> my interest in politics.	You need to start with twigs and small branches when you kindle a camp fire.
Tim lost his job after a <b>heated</b> argument with his boss.	We have a heated swimming pool.
The new car's <b>sexy</b> design increased sales for the company.	Some women think that lipstick makes them look sexy.
He was dressed rather vulgarly in a <b>loud</b> checked suit.	I can't hear you because the radio is too loud.
It wasn't long before their relationship turned <b>sour</b> .	Sour food has an acid taste like lemon or vinegar.

### Difference Between Metaphor and Simile

Both similes and metaphors link one thing to another. A simile usually uses "as" or "like". A metaphor is a condensed simile, a shortcut to meaning, which omits "as" or "like." A metaphor creates a relationship directly and leaves more to the imagination. With simile A is **like** B. With metaphor A is B.

simile	metaphor
Your eyes are like the sun.	You are my sunshine.
He eats like a pig. He lives like a pig.	He is a pig.

### Dead Metaphors

In the phrase "to grasp the concept" the physical action "to grasp" is used as a metaphor for "to understand" (which is non-physical). But this phrase has been used so often that most English speakers do not have an image of the physical action in their mind. This metaphor has died; it is a "dead metaphor".

### Mixed Metaphors

The awkward use of two or more different metaphors at the same time is normally best avoided. It creates conflicting images in the reader or listener's mind, reduces each metaphor's impact, and generally causes confusion. Look at this example:

- America is a **melting pot** where new ideas are **kindled**.



pronounced: SIM-i-lee

## Simile (EnglishClub.com)

It's been a hard day's night,  
and I've been working like a dog  
The Beatles

A **simile** is a figure of speech that says that one thing is like another different thing. We can use similes to make descriptions more emphatic or vivid.

We often use the words **as...as** and **like** with similes.

Common patterns for similes, with example sentences, are:

- something [is\*] **AS** adjective **AS** something  
His skin was **as cold as ice**.  
It felt **as hard as rock**.  
She looked **as gentle as a lamb**.
- something [is\*] **LIKE** something  
My love is **like a red, red rose**.  
These cookies **taste like garbage**.  
He had a temper (that was) **like a volcano**.
- something [does\*\*] **LIKE** something  
He eats **like a pig**.  
He smokes **like a chimney**.  
They fought **like cats and dogs**.

\* stative verb: be, feel, smell, taste etc

\*\* action verb

Here are some more examples of well known similes:

### [is] AS adjective AS something meaning

as blind as a bat	completely blind
as cold as ice	very cold
as flat as a pancake	completely flat
as gentle as a lamb	very gentle
as light as a feather	very light
as old as the hills	very old
as sharp as a knife	very sharp
as strong as a bull	very strong
as white as snow	pure white
as wise as an owl	very wise

Longer list of AS...AS similes

[is] <b>LIKE</b> something	possible meaning (depending on context)
like a rose	beautiful
like a volcano	explosive
like garbage	disgusting
like an animal	inhuman

like spaghetti	entangled
like dewdrops	sweet and pure
like gold dust	precious
like a tip	very untidy (tip = garbage dump)
like a dream	wonderful, incredible
like stars	bright and beautiful

[does] <b>LIKE</b> something	meaning
to drink like a fish	to drink a lot
to eat like a bird	to eat very little
to eat like a horse	to eat a lot
to eat like a pig	to eat impolitely
to fight like cats and dogs	to fight fiercely
to sing like an angel	to sing beautifully
to sleep like a log	to sleep well and soundly
to smoke like a chimney	to smoke heavily, all the time
to soar like an eagle	to fly high and free
to work like a dog	to work very hard

Note that with the AS...AS pattern, the first AS is sometimes suppressed, for example:

- His skin was cold **as** ice.

The above patterns of simile are the most common, but there are others made with **adverbs** or words such as **than** and **as if**, for example:

- He ran **as fast as** the wind.
- He is **larger than** life.
- They ran **as if** for their lives.

Similes can include other figures of speech. For example, "He ran like greased lightning" is a simile that includes hyperbole (greased lightning).

Similes often make use of irony or sarcasm. In such cases they may even mean the opposite of the adjective used. Look at these examples:

- His explanation was **as clear as mud**. (not clear at all since mud is opaque)
- The film was about **as interesting as watching a copy of Windows download**. (long and boring)
- Watching the show was **like watching paint dry**. (very boring)

Similes are often found (and they sometimes originate) in poetry and other literature. Here are a few examples:

- A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle - Irina Dunn
- Dawn breaks open like a wound that bleeds afresh - Wilfred Owen
- Death has many times invited me: it was like the salt invisible in the waves - Pablo Neruda
- Guiltless forever, like a tree - Robert Browning
- Happy as pigs in mud - David Eddings
- How like the winter hath my absence been - William Shakespeare
- As idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean - Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- Jubilant as a flag unfurled - Dorothy Parker
- So are you to my thoughts as food to life - William Shakespeare
- Yellow butterflies flickered along the shade like flecks of sun - William Faulkner

Popular songs, too, make use of simile:

pronounced: hy-PER-buh-lee

## Hyperbole (EnglishClub.com)

Give me a thousand kisses, then a hundred,  
Then another thousand, then a second hundred,  
Then still another thousand, then a hundred  
Catullus

**Hyperbole** is a figure of speech that uses an exaggerated or extravagant statement to create a strong emotional response. As a figure of speech it is not intended to be taken literally. Hyperbole is frequently used for humour. Examples of hyperbole are:

- They ran like **greased lightning**.
- He's got **tons of money**.
- Her brain is the size of a **pea**.
- He is **older than the hills**.
- I will **die** if she asks me to dance.
- She is as big as an **elephant**!
- I'm so hungry I could eat a **horse**.
- I have told you a **million** times not to lie!

The media and the advertising industry often use hyperbole (which may then be described as hype or media hype).

## Oxymoron (EnglishClub.com)

pronounced: ox-ee-MOR-on

plural: oxymora, oxymorons



So fair and foul a day I have not seen!

William Shakespeare

An **oxymoron** is a figure of speech that deliberately uses two contradictory ideas. This contradiction creates a paradoxical image in the reader or listener's mind that generates a new concept or meaning for the whole. Some typical oxymorons are:

- a **living death**
- sometimes you have to be **cruel to be kind**
- a **deafening silence**
- **bitter-sweet**
- The **Sounds of Silence** (song title)
- make **haste slowly**
- he was **conspicuous by his absence**

### Pseudo Oxymorons

In the standard meaning of oxymoron the contradiction is deliberate. However, in popular usage oxymoron is sometimes used to mean "contradiction in terms", where the contradiction is unintentional. Such expressions, unlike real oxymorons, are commonly used without any sense of paradox in everyday language, for example:

- anecdotal evidence
- friendly fire
- pretty ugly

A common attempt at humour is to describe a certain phrase as an oxymoron, implying that the two parts of the phrase are mutually exclusive and that consequently the phrase as a whole must be nonsensical:

- airline food
- American culture
- eco-tourism
- Microsoft security
- military intelligence

# Simile and Metaphor Student Worksheet

## Simile examples:

She is *as* sweet as candy.  
Bob runs *like* a deer.  
The willow's music is *like* a soprano.  
She slept *like* a log.  
He is as thin *as* a rail.

## Metaphor examples:

My dad is a bear.  
The bar of soap was a slippery eel.  
The light was the sun during our test.  
He hogged the road.  
She toyed with the idea.

## Similes:

A friend is like \_\_\_\_\_. or Friendship is like \_\_\_\_\_.  
A friend is as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_.  
When I am tired, I am as \_\_\_\_\_.  
When I am sad, I am like \_\_\_\_\_.  
The dog was as fast as \_\_\_\_\_.

## Metaphors:

A friend is \_\_\_\_\_.  
Friendship is \_\_\_\_\_.  
Feeling tired is \_\_\_\_\_.  
He was a \_\_\_\_\_ through all their trouble.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Identify the Words and Meaning of Metaphors and Similes

On your own paper, find the simile or metaphor and write it down. Next, write the words being compared on your notebook paper. Finally, write the meaning of the simile or metaphor based on the context of the sentence.

1. The baby was like an octopus, grabbing at all the cans on the grocery store shelves.
2. As the teacher entered the room she muttered under her breath, "This class is like a three-ring circus!"
3. The giant's steps were thunder as he ran toward Jack.
4. The pillow was a cloud when I put my head upon it after a long day.
5. I feel like a limp dishrag.
6. Those girls are like two peas in a pod.
7. The fluorescent light was the sun during the test.
8. No one invites Harold to parties because he's a wet blanket.
9. The bar of soap was a slippery eel during the dog's bath.
10. Ted was as nervous as a cat with a long tail in a room full of rocking chairs.



### **EUPHEMISM**

A euphemism is a phrase or name that puts a positive spin on something.  
For example,

Could you repeat what you just said, please? I'm having a senior moment.

My father passed on ten years ago.

### **DYSPHEMISM**

A dysphemism is a phrase or name that puts a negative spin on something.  
For example,

The oil spill off the coast of Crete exterminated thousands of sea gulls.

### **HYPERBOLE**

A description is hyperbolic if it exaggerates.

My dad is a total Hitler. He never lets me stay out past 10 on week nights.

### **PERSUASIVE DEFINITION**

A persuasive definition defines something in such a way as to cause you to take a certain perspective regarding the thing defined.

This war (the Civil War) is the birth of a nation.

### **PERSUASIVE COMPARISON**

A persuasive comparison makes a comparison between two things in order to cause you to take a certain perspective regarding the thing compared.

The people who fought the Soviet-backed government in Nicaragua were freedom fighters just as George Washington was in our country.

### **INNUENDO**

We use innuendo whenever we communicate something not by saying it, but by implying it. For example,

Sue: What do you think of the new Republican presidential candidate?

Sam: He has great handwriting, I suppose.

### **LOADED QUESTION**

A loaded question is simply innuendo that has the form of a question. That is, speakers use loaded questions to communicate a certain message without actually saying it.

Has Henry stopped beating his wife?

Who is to blame for this lackluster political campaign?

### **STEREOTYPE**

We use stereotypes whenever we make groups based on a single feature, and then expect the group members to all be the same.

The mind of a political liberal is full of holes and their soul is without moral fibre.

### **PROOF SURROGATE**

Rush Limbaugh is obviously at least one head above all the other radio commentators.

Most people approve of Arnold's decisions so far, according to the polls.

### **WEASLER**

Weaslers are rhetorical devices that you add to a claim to weaken it such that you seem to be making a strong claim, but you are not. This allows you to exaggerate the qualities of something (a truck, for example), without actually lying.

It would appear, if you think about it in the right way, that the party was not a success.

### **DOWNPLAYER**

A downplayer is a rhetorical device that "downplays" an event or fact, making it seem less important. For example,

Henry had a little trouble in calculus but will make a great math teacher. (F in calculus)

The euphemism "little trouble in calculus" makes the "F" seem less important

### **RIDICULE/SARCASM**

In sarcasm the words used may be polite, but the tone of voice and the use of stereotypes portrays a negative attitude towards the thought expressed.

I just love itty bitty Chihuahua puppies that yip non stop.

### **REWRITE WITH A POSITIVE SPIN**

The mayor got very drunk at the party and flirted outrageously with the advisors.

The oil from the "Sonnets" leak in Montego Bay has painfully slaughtered thousands of gulls and seals.



# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

## Lesson 1

### Simile and Metaphor



**Figurative language** is a tool that an author employs (or uses) to help the reader visualize (or see) what is happening in a story or poem. Some common types of figurative language are: simile, metaphor, alliteration, onomatopoeia, idiom, puns, and sensory language. Below are some ways to introduce these concepts to your class and some activities. There are also links to other sites for more help.

#### Resources

[The idea bank for thousands of similes](#)

## THE SIMILE

A **simile** is a comparison using like or as. It usually compares two dissimilar objects.

For example: *His feet were as big as boats.* We are comparing the size of feet to boats.

Using the poem below underline all of the similes. Decide which items are being compared.

(Simile)

### Willow and Ginkgo

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*.

## THE METAPHOR

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Poetry Quiz

**Directions:** Read the following examples of figurative language. Identify the poetic device being used. Write the letter of your answer on the line to the right.

1. "He leans to spit his pear. Being gone, it can't reveal the joy of leaving. But it does."  
a. simile      b. alliteration      c. onomatopoeia      d. personification      1 \_\_\_\_\_
2. "Chicago is a city that is fierce as a dog with tongue lapping for action."  
a. enjambment      b. metaphor      c. simile      d. onomatopoeia      2 \_\_\_\_\_
3. "We strike straight. We lurk late."  
a. hyperbole      b. alliteration      c. metaphor      d. personification      3 \_\_\_\_\_
4. "Silver bells!... How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle in the icy air of night."  
a. simile      b. hyperbole      c. onomatopoeia      d. alliteration      4 \_\_\_\_\_
5. "What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?"  
a. simile      b. rhyme      c. repetition      d. metaphor      5 \_\_\_\_\_
6. "I'd rather take baths with a man-eating shark [then do my homework]."  
a. alliteration      b. personification      c. simile      d. hyperbole      6 \_\_\_\_\_
7. "Poets make pets of pretty words."  
a. simile      b. metaphor      c. onomatopoeia      d. enjambment      7 \_\_\_\_\_
8. "His fin [is] like a piece of sheet-iron, three corned and with a knife-edge."  
a. simile      b. metaphor      c. alliteration      d. rhythm      8 \_\_\_\_\_
9. "And I will come again, my love, [even if] it were ten thousand miles."  
a. personification      b. onomatopoeia      c. hyperbole      d. simile      9 \_\_\_\_\_
10. "...women under the gas lamps luring the farm boys."  
a. onomatopoeia      b. hyperbole      c. personification      d. alliteration      10 \_\_\_\_\_



## Poetry Unit Test

**Directions:** Choose only one answer. You are responsible for making clean marks and erasing your mistakes. Try your best. When you are done, check your answers.

**SECTION 1 – DEFINITIONS:** Match the term with the definition. Shade in the appropriate bubble.

For questions 1 through 4. **Not all of the choices are used.**

1. metaphor	A. exaggeration for effect
2. alliteration	B. comparison of two or more things using “like” or “as”
3. simile	C. when one idea or sentence is stretched over two or more lines.
4. hyperbole	D. repeating the same starting sounds of words.
	E. comparison of two or more things <b>not</b> using “like” or “as”

For questions 5 through 8. **Not all of the choices are used.**

5. rhythm	A. repeating the same starting sounds of words.
6. repetition	B. when one idea or sentence is stretched over two or more lines.
7. rhyme	C. a regular pattern of stresses, like a beat.
8. enjambment	D. when a poet repeats a word or words to emphasize
	E. when two words share the same final sound

For questions 9 through 12. **Not all of the choices are used.**

9. personification	A. when a words pronunciation imitates its sound
10. onomatopoeia	B. when the outcome of a situation is the exact opposite of what was expected
11. imagery	C. giving human traits or characteristics to an object or idea
12. irony	D. writing that uses the five senses to create “pictures”
	E. exaggeration for effect

## SECTION 2 – EXAMPLES

**Directions:** Read the following examples of figurative language. Identify the poetic device that is most clearly being used. Choose the **best** answer. Shade in the appropriate bubble on your Scantron form.

13. "the men are very thin, very pale, wear wristwatches that hurt their wrists."  
a. personification   b. onomatopoeia   c. rhyme   d. enjambment   e. hyperbole
14. "Chicago is a city that is fierce as a dog with tongue lapping for action."  
a. enjambment   b. metaphor   c. simile   d. onomatopoeia   e. repetition
15. "We strike straight. We lurk late."  
a. hyperbole   b. simile   c. metaphor   d. personification   e. alliteration
16. "Bang! There goes another building."  
a. personification   b. hyperbole   c. repetition   d. onomatopoeia   e. simile
17. "What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?"  
a. simile   b. rhyme   c. repetition   d. metaphor   e. enjambment
18. "I'd rather take baths with a man-eating shark [than do my homework]."  
a. alliteration   b. personification   c. simile   d. enjambment   e. hyperbole
19. "Poets make pets of pretty words."  
a. simile   b. metaphor   c. onomatopoeia   d. enjambment   e. repetition
20. "His fin [is] like a piece of sheet-iron, three corned and with a knife-edge."  
a. simile   b. metaphor   c. alliteration   d. rhythm   e. rhyme
21. "Monday morning, as the children were fed, and sent to school, she crawled under the bed."  
a. hyperbole   b. rhyme   c. repetition   d. onomatopoeia   e. metaphor
22. "He leans to spit his pear. Being gone, it can't reveal the joy of leaving. But it does."  
a. simile   b. alliteration   c. onomatopoeia   d. personification   e. enjambment
23. "And I will come again, my love, [even if] it were ten thousand miles."  
a. personification   b. onomatopoeia   c. hyperbole   d. repetition   e. simile
24. "My love is like a red, red rose."  
a. alliteration   b. irony   c. onomatopoeia   d. metaphor   e. rhyme
25. "I always said forever last a lifetime. No one ever knew forever would end tomorrow."  
a. metaphor   b. enjambment   c. onomatopoeia   d. simile   e. irony
26. "There's a patch of old snow in a corner."  
a. simile   b. metaphor   c. imagery   d. irony   e. repetition

**SECTION 3 – WHOLE POEMS:** Read the poems and the questions. Choose the **BEST** answer.

**We Wear the Mask**

Paul Laurence Dunbar

We wear the mask that grins and lies,  
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,--  
This debt we pay to human guile<sup>1</sup>;  
With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,  
And mouth with myriad<sup>2</sup> subtleties<sup>3</sup>.

Why should the world be overwise,  
In counting all our tears and sighs?  
Nay, let them only see us, while  
We wear the mask.

We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries  
To thee from tortured souls arise.  
We sing, but oh the clay is vile<sup>4</sup>  
Beneath our feet, and long the mile;  
But let the world dream otherwise,  
We wear the mask!

**Pretty Words**

By: Elinore Wylie

Poets make pets of pretty, docile<sup>5</sup> words:  
I love smooth words, like gold-enameled<sup>6</sup> fish  
which circle slowly with a silken swish,  
and tender ones, like downy-feathered birds:  
Words shy and dappled<sup>7</sup>, deep-eyed deer in herds,  
come to my hand, and playful if I wish,  
or purring softly at a silver dish,  
blue Persian kittens fed on cream and curds.

I love bright words, words up and singing early;  
words that are luminous<sup>8</sup> in the dark, and sing;  
warm lazy words, white cattle under trees;  
I love words opalescent<sup>9</sup>, cool, and pearly,  
like midsummer moths, and honed words like bees,  
gilded<sup>10</sup> and sticky, with a little sting.

1. Guile: treacherous cunning; skillful deceit.
2. Myriad: a vast number; many.
3. Subtleties: being difficult to detect.
4. Vile: loathsome; disgusting.
5. Docile: yielding to direction.

6. Enameled: a coating that dries to a hard finish.
7. Dappled: spotted.
8. Luminous: emitting light; illuminated.
9. Opalescent: having shimmering changing reflections
10. Gilded: having the color of gold.

27. Which of the poems above has a continuous **rhythm**?

- A. *We Wear the Mask*   B. *Pretty Words*   C. neither of these poems   D. both of these poems

28. Which of the poems above use **rhyme**?

- A. *We Wear the Mask*   B. *Pretty Words*   C. neither of these poems   D. both of these poems

29. Which of the poems above use **metaphor**?

- A. *We Wear the Mask*   B. *Pretty Words*   C. neither of these poems   D. both of these poems

30. Which poem uses **MORE alliteration**?

- A. *We Wear the Mask*   B. *Pretty Words*   C. neither of these poems use any alliteration.

31. Which of the poems above use **metaphor**?

- A. *We Wear the Mask*   B. *Pretty Words*   C. neither of these poems   D. both of these poems

32. Which of the poems above use **personification**?

- A. *We Wear the Mask*   B. *Pretty Words*   C. neither of these poems   D. both of these poems

33. Which of the poems uses **MORE repetition**?

- A. *We Wear the Mask*   B. *Pretty Words*   C. Neither of these poems uses any repetition.

34. Which of the poems above use **simile**?

- A. *We Wear the Mask*   B. *Pretty Words*   C. neither of these poems   D. both of these poems

35. Which of the above poems uses **imagery**?

- A. *We Wear the Mask*   B. *Pretty Words*   C. neither of these poems   D. both of these poems



**A Patch of Old Snow**  
Robert Frost

There's a patch of old snow in a corner  
That I should have guessed  
Was a blow-away paper the rain  
Had brought to rest.

It is speckled with grime as if  
Small print overspread it,  
The news of a day I've forgotten—  
If I ever read it.

**Bee, I'm Expecting You!**  
Emily Dickenson

Bee, I'm expecting you!  
Was saying yesterday  
To somebody you know  
That you were due.

The frogs got home last week,  
Are settled and at work,  
Birds mostly back,  
The clover warm and thick.

You'll get my letter by  
The seventeenth; reply,  
Or better, be with me.  
Yours,  
Fly.

36. Which of the above poems uses **rhyme**?

A. *A Patch of Old Snow*   B. *Bee, I'm Expecting You*   C. neither   D. both

37. Which of the above poems uses **personification**?

A. *A Patch of Old Snow*   B. *Bee, I'm Expecting You*   C. neither   D. both

38. Which of the above poems uses **simile**?

A. *A Patch of Old Snow*   B. *Bee, I'm Expecting You*   C. neither   D. both

39. Which of the above poems uses **imagery**?

A. *A Patch of Old Snow*   B. *Bee, I'm Expecting You*   C. neither   D. both

40. Which of the above poems resembles a letter?

A. *A Patch of Old Snow*   B. *Bee, I'm Expecting You*   C. neither   D. both

Can you match the technique to its description and example?

Technique	Description	Example
RHETORICAL QUESTION	Saying nice things about the reader to get them on your side	<i>We all feel that ... Surely you can see</i>
TRIPLES	To present beliefs as if they are factual truths	<i>Hunting is evil, cruel and outdated. Do it well, do it fast and do it now.</i>
OPINION AS FACT	To repeat an idea or image three times, usually in a slightly different way	<i>Why would anyone want to hunt foxes with dogs? Isn't the solution obvious?</i>
SUPERLATIVE	A question designed to make the reader think; doesn't need an answer	<i>The fox is torn viciously apart by savage dogs. You too can be beautiful.</i>
EMOTIVE LANGUAGE	Adjective to imply the highest or lowest quality	<i>As you are the sort of customer that appreciates quality...</i>
PRONOUNS	Refers to people to identify the reader/writer relationship	<i>This is the best school in the area. It is the worst book ever written.</i>
FLATTERY	Words and phrases to make the reader feel something	<i>This is an excellent school. Obviously, hunting is cruel.</i>



**MEDIA AWARENESS NETWORK**

www.media-awareness.ca

**How to Detect Bias in the News**

At one time or other we all complain about "bias in the news." The fact is, despite the journalistic ideal of "objectivity," every news story is influenced by the attitudes and background of its interviewers, writers, photographers and editors.

Not all bias is deliberate. But you can become a more aware news reader or viewer by watching for the following journalistic techniques that allow bias to "creep in" to the news:

**Bias through selection and omission**

An editor can express a bias by choosing to use or not to use a specific news item. Within a given story, some details can be ignored, and others included, to give readers or viewers a different opinion about the events reported. If, during a speech, a few people boo, the reaction can be described as "remarks greeted by jeers" or they can be ignored as "a handful of dissidents."

Bias through omission is difficult to detect. Only by comparing news reports from a wide variety of outlets can the form of bias be observed.

**Bias through placement**

Readers of papers judge first page stories to be more significant than those buried in the back. Television and radio newscasts run the most important stories first and leave the less significant for later. Where a story is placed, therefore, influences what a reader or viewer thinks about its importance.

**Bias by headline**

Many people read only the headlines of a news item. Most people scan nearly all the headlines in a newspaper. Headlines are the most-read part of a paper. They can summarize as well as present carefully hidden bias and prejudices. They can convey excitement where little exists. They can express approval or condemnation.

**Bias by photos, captions and camera angles**

Some pictures flatter a person, others make the person look unpleasant. A paper can choose photos to influence opinion about, for example, a candidate for election. On television, the choice of which visual images to display is extremely important. The captions newspapers run below photos are also potential sources of bias.

**Bias through use of names and titles**

News media often use labels and titles to describe people, places, and events. A person can be called an "ex-con" or be referred to as someone who "served time twenty years ago for a minor offense." Whether a person is described as a "terrorist" or a "freedom fighter" is a clear indication of editorial bias.

**Bias through statistics and crowd counts**

To make a disaster seem more spectacular (and therefore worthy of reading about), numbers can be inflated. "A hundred injured in aircrash" can be the same as "only minor injuries in air crash," reflecting the opinion of the person doing the counting.

**Bias by source control**

To detect bias, always consider where the news item "comes from." Is the information supplied by a reporter, an eyewitness, police or fire officials, executives, or elected or appointed government officials? Each may have a particular bias that is introduced into the story. Companies and public relations directors supply news outlets with puffpieces through news releases, photos or videos. Often news outlets depend on pseudo-events (demonstrations, sit-ins, ribbon cuttings, speeches and ceremonies) that take place mainly to gain news coverage.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Jacob the Great

Jacob hated finishing things almost as much as he loved starting them. As a result, he had gotten into a million hobbies and activities, but he never stuck with any of them long enough to get any good.

He begged his mother for months for a guitar so that he could play Black Eyed Peas songs to Angie, a girl whom he liked, but after he finally got one for Christmas, he found out that guitars doesn't play themselves. He took a few lessons, but strumming the strings hurt his fingers and he didn't like holding the pick, so now the five-hundred dollar guitar lives under his bed.

After reading an ad in the back of one of his comic books, Jacob decided that he wanted a Wonder-Sweeper 5000 metal detector, so that he could find buried pirate treasure. So he mowed lawns all summer and didn't spend his money on ice-cream like his younger brother, Alex. He saved it all in a shoe box in his closet. Then he shoveled driveways all winter, and he didn't spend his money on candy and chips like his classmates. By the time spring came he had saved \$200, and he purchased the Wonder-Sweeper 5000 metal detector. He beeped it around the park for a while, but he soon found out that no pirates had ever set sail in his neighborhood, and if they had they didn't leave any treasure. Even though he found a key ring, forty-seven cents, and all the bottle caps he could throw, he buried the metal detector in his closet.

Given Jacob's history with hobbies, it was no surprise that Jacob's father was *reluctant* to buy him a magician's kit for his birthday. "Geez, Jacob... You sure you wouldn't rather I got you more guitar lessons?" He suggested. Jacob was insistent. "Dad, you've got to get me the magician's kit. This time I'll stick with it for real. I promise! Come on, Dad," Jacob begged. Jacob's father sighed and then replied, "Oh, I don't know, Jacob. Things are awfully tight right now." But Jacob's father was reminded of his own youth long ago, when he quit from football and started karate practice before hardly getting his equipment dirty. So when Jacob's birthday came around, Jacob was both surprised and pleased to find the magician's kit that he had desired so badly with a big bright bow on it.

Jacob opened up the box and unwrapped the many parts in the kit. As he did so, he imagined sawing his pet cat in half and putting it back together to the amazement of his friends and family. He took the many fake coins, trick cards, and rope pieces of varying length on the kitchen table and imagined pulling rabbits out of his hat and turning them into pigeons with a mysterious puff of smoke. As Jacob continued pulling plastic thumbs, foam balls, and giant playing cards out of the magic kit, a commercial on the TV caught his attention. "*Hey kids! Have you ever wanted to go to space? Experience what it's like to be an astronaut? Do you want to explore the universe? Well, now you can.*" As the commercial continued play, Jacob walked away from the magic kit on the kitchen table and stared at the TV screen longingly. "*For only \$195 you can go to space camp and live life like an astronaut for a whole weekend. Enroll now for a once in a life time experience.*" Jacob's cry rang throughout the house as he yelled, "MOM!" He now knew what his true purpose in life was.

## Comprehension and Inferential Questions

**Directions:** After reading the story, choose the best answer for each question. Circle one answer.

1. According to the text, why does Jacob stop playing the guitar?  
a. It hurt his fingers.      b. He'd rather play drums.      c. It was too easy.      d. He failed math.
2. To whom did Jacob want to play Black Eyed Peas songs?  
a. Alex      b. Angie      c. Mom      d. Dad
3. According to the passage, why does Jacob decide that he wants a metal detector?  
a. He sees a man at the park with one.      b. His father had one as a child.  
c. He saw a TV commercial for one.      d. He read an ad for one in a comic book.
4. How does Jacob get the items that he wants in the story?  
a. He asks his mom.      b. He asks his dad.  
c. He shovels driveways and mows lawns.      d. He does all of these things to get what he wants.
5. When did Jacob buy the metal detector?  
a. In the fall      b. In the summer      c. In the spring      d. In the winter
6. True or False: The metal detector was a good investment for Jacob.  
a. True      b. False
7. Why doesn't Jacob's father want to get him the magician's kit for his birthday?  
a. Jacob failed math class.      b. Jacob quits too many expensive activities.  
c. Jacob has been mean to his younger brother.      d. Jacob went to the park without permission.
8. Why does Jacob's father buy Jacob the magician's kit?  
a. Jacob mowed the lawn.      b. Jacob reminded his father of himself.  
c. Jacob bought ice cream for his brother.      d. Jacob found his father's key ring.
9. Which word is closest in meaning to the italicized word in the following sentence from paragraph four: "It was no surprise that Jacob's father was *reluctant* to buy him a magician's kit for his birthday?"  
a. Happy      b. Willing      c. Proud      d. Hesitant
10. What distracts Jacob from the magician's kit?  
a. A TV commercial      b. His father      c. The kitchen table      d. A comic book
11. Based on the end of the story, Jacob is *most likely* to go on and do which of the following?  
a. Become a great magician      b. Learn to play guitar well  
c. Detect an incredible hidden treasure      d. Raise money to go to space camp



12. Which happened first in the text?

- a. Jacob asked his dad for the magician's kit.
- c. Jacob mowed lawns.

- b. Jacob got a guitar for Christmas.
- d. Jacob shoveled driveways.

13. Which happened last in the text?

- a. Jacob saved up \$200.
- c. Jacob took guitar lessons.

- b. Jacob found forty-seven cents in the park.
- d. Jacob was influenced by a comic book.

### Literary Elements Questions

**Directions:** After reading the story, choose the best answer for each question.

14. Which **character trait** *best* describes Jacob in regards to his hobbies?

- a. Dedicated
- b. Impulsive
- c. Committed
- d. Devoted

15. What was the author's purpose in writing this text?

- a. Inform
- b. Persuade
- c. Entertain
- d. Confuse

16. In what genre is this story?

- a. Fiction
- b. Nonfiction
- c. Folklore
- d. Poetry

17. In what subgenre is this story?

- a. Biography
- b. Historical Fiction
- c. Realistic Fiction
- d. Fable

18. In which pattern is the text organized?

- a. Problem and Solution
- b. Chronological
- c. Sequence
- d. Cause and Effect

19. From what point of view is the story narrated?

- a. First-Person
- b. Third-Person Objective
- c. Second-Person
- d. Third-Person Omniscient

20. Which poetic technique is used in the following line: "He beeped it around the park for a while"?

- a. Onomatopoeia
- b. Simile
- c. Personification
- d. Hyperbole

21. Which technique is used in the following line: "He had gotten into a million hobbies and activities"?

- a. Onomatopoeia
- b. Simile
- c. Personification
- d. Hyperbole

22. Which technique is used in the following line: "The five-hundred dollar guitar lives under his bed."

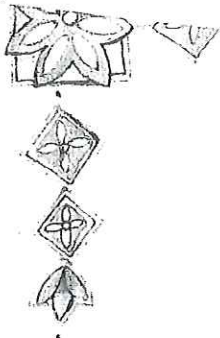
- a. Onomatopoeia
- b. Simile
- c. Personification
- d. Hyperbole



An Irish Airman foresees his Death

W. B. YEATS

I KNOW that I shall meet my fate  
Somewhere among the clouds above;  
Those that I fight I do not hate  
Those that I guard I do not love;  
My country is Kiltartan Cross, 5  
My countrymen Kiltartan's poor,  
No likely end could bring them loss  
Or leave them happier than before.  
Nor law, nor duty bade me fight,  
Nor public man, nor cheering crowds, 10  
A lonely impulse of delight  
Drove to this tumult in the clouds;  
I balanced all, brought all to mind,  
The years to come seemed waste of breath,  
A waste of breath the years behind 15  
In balance with this life, this death.



## TO A BUTTERFLY

I've watched you now a full half-hour,  
Self-poised upon that yellow flower;  
And, little Butterfly! indeed  
I know not if you sleep or feed.  
How motionless!—not frozen seas  
More motionless! And then  
What joy awaits you, when the breeze  
Hath found you out among the trees,  
And calls you forth again!



This plot of orchard-ground is ours;  
My trees they are, my Sister's flowers.  
Here rest your wings when they are weary;  
Here lodge as in a sanctuary!  
Come often to us, fear no wrong;  
Sit near us on the bough!  
We'll talk of sunshine and of song,  
And summer days, when we were young;  
Sweet childish days, that were as long  
As twenty days are now.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

**if everything happens that can't be done**

if everything happens that  
can't be done  
(and anything's righter  
than books  
could plan)  
the stupidest teacher will  
almost guess  
(with a run  
skip  
around we go yes)  
there's nothing as something  
as one

one hasn't a why or because or  
although  
(and buds know better  
than books  
don't grow)  
one's anything old being  
everything new  
(with a what  
which  
around we come who)  
one's everyanything so

so world is a leaf so tree is a  
bough  
(and birds sing sweeter  
than books  
tell how)  
so here is away and so your is  
a my  
(with a down  
up  
around again fly)  
forever was never till now



now i love you and you love me  
(and books are shutter  
than books  
can be)  
and deep in the high that does  
nothing but fall  
(with a shout  
each  
around we go all)  
there's somebody calling who's  
we

we're anything brighter than  
even the sun  
(we're everything greater  
than books  
might mean)  
we're everanything more than  
believe  
(with a spin  
leap  
alive we're alive)  
we're wonderful one times one

*ee cummings*