

Simile Metaphor Handout - AAPI Women Voices: Untold Stories Through Poetry

1. Literal language and figurative language

- A. Literal language is used to mean exactly what is written.
- “It was raining a lot, so I rode the bus.”
 - In this example of literal language, the writer means to explain exactly what is written: that he or she chose to ride the bus because of the heavy rain.
- B. Figurative language is used to mean something other than what is written; something symbolic, suggested, or implied
- “It was raining cats and dogs, so I rode the bus.”
 - In this example of figurative language, there were not actually cats and dogs falling from rain clouds, instead, the rain felt so heavy and large that it was almost as if small animals were falling from the sky.

2. Simile and metaphor are figurative language

Examples:

	Simile	Metaphor
	Makes a comparison between 2 things or persons using “like” or “as”	Makes a comparison between 2 things or persons without using “like” or “as”
1	Life is like a journey.	Life is a journey.
2	You are like sunshine on a cloudy day.	You are my sunshine on a cloudy day.
3	You are like a hurricane: there's calm in your eye, but I'm getting blown away.	You are a hurricane.

	Simile
4	Her wit is as sharp as a razor.
5	For I knew his eyes like an old, old song.
6	They only know our love was brief And passing like an autumn leaf.
7	A single dim ray, like the thread of the spider, shot from out the crevice.
8	The pale moon like a petal floats in the dusk of Spring.
9	My good intent has fallen short like an arrow.

	Metaphor
10	His answer to the problem was just a Band-Aid, not a solution.
11	The path of resentment is easier to travel than the road to forgiveness.
12	The teacher planted the seeds of wisdom.
13	The wheels of justice turn slowly.
14	And therefore I went forth with hope and fear into the wintry forest of our life.

3. identify which is a simile or a metaphor:

		Simile or Metaphor
15	He is as tall as a tree.	
16	My book bag feels like a bag of rocks.	
17	He is fishing in troubled waters.	
18	She dances like she was trying to shake a spider off her leg	
19	He is the Stephen Curry of his basketball team.	

Simile and Metaphor Homework- AAPI Women Voices: Untold Stories Through Poetry

Poem of the Day: "Tell Them" by Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner. Stanza 4:

	Phrase from the poem	Simile or Metaphor	What is being compared?	To what?	What is the author trying to say by making this comparison?
1	toasted dark brown as the carved ribs of a tree stump	simile	toasted dark brown	carved ribs of a tree stump	This makes clear visual of dark skin tone.
2	our islands were dropped from a basket carried by a giant	metaphor	Our islands	were dropped from a basket carried by a giant	The Marshall Islands are in the middle of Pacific Ocean.
3	we are the hollow hulls of canoes	metaphor	Marshallese	hollow hulls of canoes	Marshallese are the finest navigators
4	as fast as the wind slicing through the pacific sea	smile	Marshallese	the wind slicing through the pacific sea	Marshallese are fast navigators
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Name _____ Class _____ Period _____

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4. Read Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner’s biography in the “AAPI Women Voice” story

5. Discussion questions

- a) What is this poem, "Tell Them", about?

- b) Which metaphors and similes were your favorites? Were there any you thought were ineffective?

- c) Kathy Jitner-Kijiner begins this poem by describing how she sends gifts to her friends in the United States, along with a letter. Why do you think she writes this poem to her friends in the United States?

6. Simile metaphor exercise

- a) Write a simile and convert it into a metaphor

	Simile	Convert it to a metaphor
1	She is like a sunrise, full of promise. .	She is a sunrise, full of promise.
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- b) Write your own metaphors

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2 _____

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Simile Metaphor Homework 2 - AAPI Women Voices: Untold Stories Through Poetry

1. Read Monica Ferrell’s biography in the “AAPI Women Voices” story.
2. Read Monica Ferrell’s poem: “Geburt des Monicakinds.”
3. Interpreting the similes and metaphors in “Geburt des Monicakinds”
Complete the chart below:

	Phrase from the poem	Simile or Metaphor	What is being compared?	To what?	What is the author trying to say by making this comparison?
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