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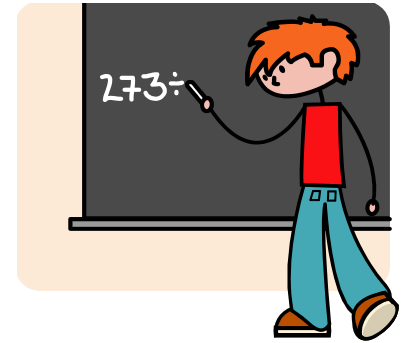
Key Skills



Figures of Speech

Metaphors

Metaphors



Objectives:

- **Reading:** To recognise how authors use metaphors to create images.
- **Writing:** To learn how to use metaphors to create images.

What are Metaphors?

Like a **simile**, a **metaphor** is a comparison of one item with another. However instead of saying that something is 'like' or 'as' something else a metaphor says that it **is** something else.

Confused? Don't be.

Instead of writing, '*the path wound its way through the hills like a snake*' (**SIMILE**)

You could write: '*The path snaked its way through the hills*' (**METAPHOR**)



In a metaphor one thing is said to be another but it is not literally true

Mega Metaphors

Metaphors are used to emphasise some quality about the object described.

Here are a few more metaphors:

'She broke my heart'



'Time flew by'

'It was raining cats and dogs'



Avoiding Mixed Metaphors

Don't get carried away and use too many metaphors. A mixed metaphor is when a person uses too many metaphors and confuses the reader or creates **redundancy** in the sentence.

For example:



*Let's bury the hatchet
and let sleeping dogs lie.*

*I was frightened to death
and falling to pieces.*



Remember metaphors are intended to clarify meaning and create vivid images. Mixing metaphors has the opposite effect.

Creating vivid sentences

Use a metaphor to create a sentence for each of the following. The first has been done for you:

1. Lava slithering down a volcano.

(A huge golden snake of lava slithered down the volcano)

2. An elderly lady looking tired and annoyed.

3. A crowd of commuters rushing to work.

4. A jet plane flying overhead.

5. A storm blasting a small fishing village.

This is quite a difficult task. If you are stuck have a quick look on the next slide...

Example Sentences

Here are a few ideas for sentences:

1. *A huge golden snake of lava slithered down the volcano.*
2. *The old woman carried the weight of the world on her shoulders.*
3. *The crowd of worker ants clambered onto the train.*
4. *The jet screamed over the village tearing the sky apart.*
5. *The storm, an angry giant, smashed at the harbour walls.*

Speaking and Listening



Feedback : Read your sentences out to a partner or the rest of the class. Explain why you have chosen particular metaphors, say why you chose particular comparisons.