

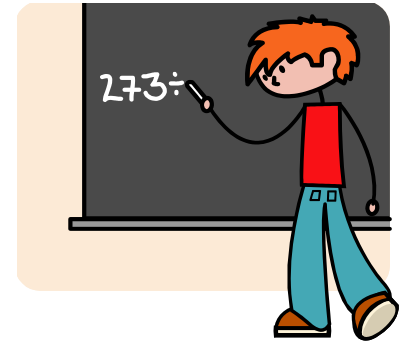
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## Figures of Speech



## Similes

# Similes



## Objectives:

- **Reading:** To understand how authors use similes to create a vivid image for the reader.
- **Writing:** To learn how to use similes to create vivid images for the reader.

# What are Similes?

A **simile** is the comparison of one item with another. It can usually be spotted by the use of the words '**as**' or '**like**' to bring the two ideas together.

For example:

*George ran away from them,  
could become,*

*George ran **like** a fox chased  
by a pack of hungry hounds.*



The first sentence makes sense but does not create a clear image whereas the second sentence creates an image and is more effective.

# Super Similes

**Similes** are used to emphasise some quality about the object described.

Here are a few similes from famous writers:

'Brief as the lightning in the collied night.' (Shakespeare)



'Bats hanging upside down like rows of disgusting old rags.' (D.H Lawrence)

'A low voice like beer trickling out of a jug.' (P.G. Wodehouse)



# Avoiding Cliché

A Cliché is a phrase that has been over used and lost its imaginative effect.

Clichéd similes include:

As strong as an ox.

As bold as brass.

As good as gold.

As light as a feather.

It dropped like a stone.



These expressions are 'hackneyed' - they are dull, boring, do not create vivid writing and are best **avoided**.

# Use a simile to complete the sentences



1. Nathanael ran like....
2. The gull soared as high as....
3. The path wound through the hills like...
4. The trees towered above me like...
5. The snow fell as gently as .....

