

Adventures in Language: Similes and Metaphors

Learning objective: To identify and use figurative language, including similes and metaphors, to describe characters and settings.

Read the story about Max the monkey and Pip the caterpillar below. Then, answer the questions to show how they use colourful language to describe their forest home.

Max the monkey swung through the canopy, his arms moving like strong, flexible springs. He landed next to Pip the caterpillar, who was resting on a leaf. 'Look at the sky, Pip!' Max exclaimed. 'The sun is a golden coin shining in a velvet pocket of blue.' Pip smiled, her tiny body as soft as a velvet ribbon. 'You are right, Max,' she whispered. 'The forest is a busy city today, with every leaf acting like a green umbrella for the creatures below.' They watched as the wind danced through the trees, whispering secrets to the flowers.

Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Personification · Description · Comparison

1. Find one simile in the passage that describes Max. Explain why it is a simile. (2 marks)

2. Identify the metaphor used to describe the sun. Why do you think the author chose to compare the sun to a coin? (2 marks)

3. What does the author mean when they say the forest is 'a busy city'? Is this a simile or a metaphor? (2 marks)

4. The author says the wind 'whispered secrets'. Which type of figurative language is this? (1 mark)

5. Write your own simile to describe Pip the caterpillar moving across a branch. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the sun as a 'golden coin' in the sky, and include one other object from the story described using a metaphor or simile.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about your favourite meal, but include at least one simile and one metaphor to make your description more exciting!