Metaphors

Name: _____

A metaphor is the comparison of two things that are usually very different, but alike in at least one way. Writers use metaphors to describe something and let the reader discover the way the things are alike.

We gazed together at the grapefruit moon.

The author is comparing two unlike things: the moon and a grapefruit. The comparison helps the reader imagine what the moon looks like because the reader knows what a grapefruit looks like. The moon must be round, dimpled, and somewhat yellow.

My sister is a couch potato. 1. _____ 2. _____

One way they are alike: _____

Your bedroom is a pigpen. 1. _____ 2. _____

One way they are alike: _____

My mom is an angel. 1. _____ 2. _____

One way they are alike: _____

Make a Metaphor: One word in the sentence is underlined. Fill in the blank with a word or phrase to create a metaphor. Remember, the two things must be different in most ways, but alike in at least one way.

The sun was a _____ in the sky.

The soccer ball was a _____ zipping into the net.

My dog is a _____ when we go on a walk.

The baby's cries were _____ .

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Making Sense of Figurative Language 3

Figurative Language is a tool that authors use to help readers visualize what is happening in a story or poem.

A **metaphor** is a comparison between two unlike things. It says that one thing is (or was) something else.

Example: The classroom is a zoo during the class party.

(The classroom and the zoo are being compared. We can infer that the classroom and zoo are both messy and crazy.)

Welcome to Teacher Betty's ~~Class~~ ZOO

Directions: Read the sentences below and determine the meaning of the underlined simile. Write your answer on the line.

1. The <u>snow is a white blanket</u> in my backyard.

_____

2. Sometimes we laugh, and sometimes we cry. <u>Life is a rollercoaster</u>!

_____

3. Her <u>heart was broken</u> when she realized she lost her favorite necklace.

_____

4. <u>He is a shining star</u> as he performs his magic tricks on the stage.

_____

5. The doctor has no problem staying up late because <u>she is a night owl</u>.

_____

6. I always ask my teacher about vocabulary words because <u>he is a dictionary</u>.

_____

7. The <u>manager's brain is a computer</u> when he solves problems for other people.

_____

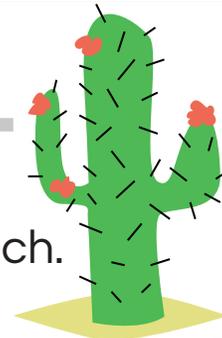8. Near the mountain, the <u>shining lake was a mirror</u>.

_____

9. After it is mowed, the <u>lawn is a green carpet</u>.

_____

10. <u>The clouds are cotton balls</u> as they sit in the bright blue sky.

_____

Name: _____   Date: _____

Metaphors in Context

Read the two passages below. **Underline** the metaphor and answer the following questions about each.

The teacher went around the room asking each student to say his or her name and their favorite game. I started to feel very nervous. Finally, it was my turn. I opened my mouth to speak, but my mouth was a sandy desert.

What two things does the
metaphor compare?

_____

_____

_____

What does it mean?

_____

_____

_____

The kindergarten class was a zoo. In one corner kids were playing with blocks; in another, three kids were playing tag. In the back of the room, we saw four kids at a table playing with a big box of dirt and real worms!

What two things does the
metaphor compare?

_____

_____

_____

What does it mean?

_____

_____

_____