

## Grade 4 Playlist: Similes and Metaphors

Aligns with *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.5.A:*

- Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., *as pretty as a picture*) in context.

### Welcome

Look at this picture:



From wpclipart.com

Which description of the bear cub is more creative?

1. The bear cub has black fur.
2. The bear cub's fur is as black as night.

These two sentences have the same meaning. The first sentence is correct, but it is not very interesting. Sometimes it is best for the writer to tell readers exactly what they should know. Other times, a writer can be a little more creative when describing something. One way writers show creativity is by using figurative language like similes and metaphors.

### Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn and practice how to:

- describe the difference between a simile and a metaphor.
- figure out the meaning of similes and metaphors in context.



**Review**

**Key Terms**

- **Figurative language** is writing that doesn't mean exactly what the words say. Examples of figurative language are also called **figures of speech**.
- A **simile** compares two things using the words "like" or "as."
- A **metaphor** compares two things by saying that one of the things being compared "is" the other thing.

**A Closer Look: Figurative vs. Literal**

Look back at those two sentences:

1. The bear cub has black fur. **Literal**
2. The bear cub's fur is as black as night. **Figurative**

Sentence 1 tells the reader directly that the bear cub's fur is black.

Sentence 2 tells the reader the same information in a creative way. The bear cub's fur isn't just black. It's so black that it looks like the night sky.

A writer can provide the same information using literal language and figurative language like similes and metaphors. Look at the different ways a writer could describe the pillows in this picture:



From commons.wikimedia.org.

<b>Literal</b>	The pillows feel soft.
<b>Simile</b>	The pillows feel <b>like</b> a cloud.
<b>Metaphor</b>	The pillows <b>are</b> clouds under my head.

Each sentence gives the same information. Sentence 1 tells the reader **directly** that the pillows are soft. Sentence 2 compares the pillows to a soft cloud using **like**. Sentence 3 compares the pillows to a soft cloud by saying they **are** clouds.



## Teaching Notes: Similes and Metaphors

In this playlist, students focus on identifying and explaining similes and metaphors in context. Consider using the following activities and resources for classroom instruction.

### Activities

1. Have students read a newspaper article and look for common similes and metaphors. Ask students to underline words and phrases that help to show what the figurative language means. Compile a list of examples as a class.
2. Divide students into groups, and assign each group a common metaphor from the list below. Have groups write a paragraph that uses the metaphor in context. (Students should use the phrase's figurative meaning, not its literal meaning.) Then have groups share their paragraphs with the class. Ask the audience to listen closely and identify the metaphor in each paragraph.

Common Metaphors	
a heart of stone	go the extra mile
a sitting duck	a fork in the road
a big fish in a small pond	hit the jackpot

### Additional Resources

**Teaching Similes and Metaphors Through Song:** In this lesson plan, students identify similes and metaphors in popular songs. Then students write their own poems using similes and metaphors.

- <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/PreviewResource/Preview/48843>

**Figurative Language Awards Ceremony:** In this lesson plan, students find examples of figurative language in books. Then students nominate their favorite examples for an award, and the class votes for a winner.

- <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/figurative-language-awards-ceremony-115.html>

**Similes and Metaphors in Poetry:** In this video, students share poems they have written that include similes and metaphors.

- <http://www.watchknowlearn.org/Video.aspx?VideoID=50467&CategoryID=2258>

