



Magnificent Metaphors

(Magnificent: Strikingly Impressive)

3rd – 6th Grades

- **What is a Metaphor?** A metaphor states that one thing is something else. It is a comparison, but does NOT use "like" or "as" to make the comparison. For example: Her hair is silk. The sentence is comparing her hair to silk. Metaphors use all forms of the verb "to be," (am, are, be, is, and was).
- **Change the Simile into a Metaphor:**
 1. She is like a busy bee. *She is a busy bee.*
 2. He is as cool as a cucumber. *He is a cool cucumber.*
 3. It was as dry as a bone. *It was a dry bone.*
 4. This is as easy as pie. *This is an easy pie.*
 5. He was blind as a bat. *He is a blind bat.*
 6. The cake as flat as a pancake. *The cake is a flat pancake.*
 7. Her hair was as smooth as silk. *Her hair was smooth silk.*
 8. Grandpa was as wise an as owl. *Grandpa is a wise owl.*
 9. This is as easy as the ABC's. *These are easy ABC's.*
 10. They act like birds of a feather. *They are birds of a feather.*

- **Identify the Metaphor:** Which of the following are examples of metaphors. Remember to listen for am, are, be, is, was, and were:

1. The glasses smiled at me.
2. Cute cats choose toys.
3. My life is a dream. (Yes)
4. Snow is like the sea. (Simile)
5. My hair is a vast forest. (Yes)
6. Long lizards lounge.
7. I am a cloud. (Yes)
8. A table is a song. (Yes)
9. The train was an angry animal roaring down the tracks. (Yes)
10. His room was a junk pile. (Yes)
11. The ocean was a raging bull. (Yes)
12. The mayor's voice was a strong weapon. (Yes)
13. The day was as sad as the color blue. (Simile)
14. Snow is like the sea. (Simile)
15. The baby was an octopus grappling at all the cans on the grocery store shelves. (Yes)

- **Draw Metaphor Comparisons:** Choose a sentence from above. Students use white boards or folded pieces of paper. On one half of the board, if the sentence is, "The glasses smiled at me," draw the glasses smiling. On the other half of the paper, draw "me." Remember you are saying that the person/thing IS something. So draw the person or thing and the item they are.
- **Write Your Own Metaphors:** Ask students to work in partner-pairs. Students look for items they can see around them. The sentence frame should read: A _____ is a _____. An example might be, "A pencil is a sharp weapon. The floor was a slippery slide." Share metaphors with the class when finished.
- **Write Sentences Using Metaphors:** With partner-pairs, students extend sentences using these metaphors: A book is an apple because . . . Books are dreams because . . . Some dogs are heroes because . . ."