

## **Lesson7 —Literary Devices**

**Goal: 5.01c**— Students will interpret literary devices such as allusion, symbolism, figurative language, flashback, dramatic irony, dialogue, diction, and imagery.

**Literature:** "The Scarlet Ibis" by James Hurst

**Lesson Focus:** figurative language: metaphor/simile

### **Guided Practice:**

Authors choose to use this type of figurative language to make comparisons that may not seem as obvious. In doing so, their writing is more stylistic and has a voice of its own.

metaphor	States that one object is another object
simile	States that one object is similar to or resembles another object—uses like/as

Access these URL to find a practice worksheet on both metaphors and simile. These activities should be relatively simple for you, but they will give you practice before we apply metaphors and similes to "The Scarlet Ibis". Happy Writing!

<http://www.newi.ac.uk/englishresources/workunits/ks3/langmedia/all/simandmet2.html>

### **QUIZ YOURSELF:**

Below each example, label metaphor or simile.

EX 1: "The water is like the sun."

EX 2: "The rain falls like the sun, rising upon the mountains."

EX 3: "Cindy was such a mule. We couldn't get her to change her mind."

<b>Ex 1: S Ex 2: S Ex 3: M</b>
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Now, ask yourself, why did the author choose to write, "The water is like the sun."? What was he trying to say?

**If you concluded that the author was trying to say that the water was hot, like the sun, you are correct. Other answers may include: The reflection off the water was bright like the sun OR the water was so massive, it was as big as the sun.**

Check your answers! How successful was this endeavor?

**Independent Practice:**

Now after clearly defining metaphors and similes, along with defining examples, please read the, "The Scarlet Ibis" by James Hurst. Follow the URL to an online text and chart examples of metaphors and similes as your read. Also, make commentary on why you think James Hurst chose to write using this type of figurative language.

[http://209.184.141.5/westwood/academ/depts/dpteng/L-Coker/VirtualEnglish/English%20I/English%20Ia/scarlet\\_ibis.htm](http://209.184.141.5/westwood/academ/depts/dpteng/L-Coker/VirtualEnglish/English%20I/English%20Ia/scarlet_ibis.htm)

On your own paper, set up the following chart to chart examples of metaphors and similes in the story. Your chart may be bigger depending on how many you find! See the example provided. Happy Hunting!

EXAMPLE	Author's Meaning
1) "The rain fell straight down <i>like</i> ropes hanging from the sky." <b>-SIMILE</b>	1) the author meant that the rain was so thick and constant, it was like ropes were dropping from the sky

AFTER READING: QUIZ YOURSELF! Below are examples from your text of metaphors and similes. Match the quotation from the story to its appropriate answer.

1. "The oriole nest rocked back and forth like an empty cradle."
2. "He seemed all head, with a tiny body which was red and shriveled like an old mans."
3. "The sick-sweet smell of bay flowers hung everywhere like a mournful song."
4. "When the sun burned orange in the top of the pines, we'd drop our jewels into the stream."
5. "He collapsed in the grass like a half-empty flour sack."
6. "They named him William Armstrong, which was like tying a big tail on a small kite."
7. "The grindstone begins to turn, and time whit all its changes is ground away."

**Closure:**

Now, go back and check your answers:

- 1) Simile
- 2) Simile
- 3) Simile
- 4) Metaphor
- 5) Simile
- 6) Metaphor

How did you do? What difficulty are you having with identifying metaphors and similes? Why did James Hurst describe these images using this type of figurative language?