

Metaphor and Simile

WITH TREES

Figurative language is one of a writer's greatest tools! Figurative language helps a writer describe things in a way that feels meaningful and important and expressive. It reveals something about what it is describing, even if it's not describing it literally.

Two of the best ways of using figurative language are **Metaphor** and **Simile**.

Metaphor directly compares two things to each other:

Trees are poems the earth writes upon the sky.

—Kahlil Gibran, *Sand and Foam*

Is a tree *literally* a poem? No, but they can certainly *feel* like poetry.

Simile compares two things to each other using 'like' or 'as.'

It had pointed leaves which grew along green switches which radiated from the bough and made a tree which looked like a lot of opened green umbrellas

—Betty Smith, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

Now write your own simile or metaphor and draw the tree it describes!

This one is from my book! Can you tell if it's a simile or metaphor?

But that tree . . . it's all toppled over to one side, with bony, willowy branches tumbling down toward a thick, saggy trunk. Like a body strung across barbed wire, its head lolling forward, hair cascading in a death veil.

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