



Metaphor

Year 10 Creative Writing



A Metaphor is...

a figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea or make a comparison.

The Basics

- A metaphor states that one thing is another thing
- It equates those two things not because they actually are the same, but for the sake of comparison or symbolism
- If you take a metaphor literally, it will probably sound very strange (are there actually any sheep, black or otherwise, in your family?)
- Often, a metaphor is used to help a reader understand something they have limited knowledge of because they have knowledge of the common characteristic that the two things share.

What's the idea here?

John's suggestion was just a Band-Aid for the problem.

The cast on his broken leg was a plaster shackle.

The classroom was a zoo.

Those best friends are two peas in a pod.

Your turn!

Write your own metaphor that communicates your feelings about school.

You have 5 mins to do this before we share our metaphors with the class. Our job, as the audience, will be to guess your feelings about school based on your metaphor.

Extended Metaphors

An extended metaphor is one that carries a theme over several sentences or even paragraphs. It's a powerful tool that is often used in literature. William Shakespeare is the best example for metaphors, as he used them freely and excessively in all his works. He was a master of extended metaphors:

“All the world’s a stage, And all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances, And one man in his time plays many parts, His acts being seven ages.”

“Bobby Holloway says my imagination is a three-hundred-ring circus. Currently I was in ring two hundred and ninety-nine, with elephants dancing and clowns cart wheeling and tigers leaping through rings of fire. The time had come to step back, leave the main tent, go buy some popcorn and a Coke, bliss out, cool down.”
(Dean Koontz, Seize the Night. Bantam, 1999)

You just gotta ignite the light

And let it shine

Just own the night

Like the Fourth of July

'Cause baby, you're a firework

C'mon, show 'em what you're worth

Make 'em go "Aah, aah, aah"

As you shoot across the sky

Baby, you're a firework

C'mon, let your colors burst

Make 'em go, "Aah, aah, aah"

You're gonna leave them all in awe, awe, awe

(Firework by Katy Perry)

The Task

Using your original metaphor about school, develop it beyond a single line. Comment on other aspects of the environment that can be used and compared to the aspects original thing to develop the 'why' behind your feelings about school.

You may choose to rewrite the whole metaphor with the new knowledge that you have.