

A special person — poetry lesson

Older students: metaphor poem

Younger students: simile poem

Lesson introduction

Discuss a metaphor or simile with the students. Check they understand the language feature.

Definitions:

A **metaphor** equates one thing to another, without the use of 'like' or 'as'.

Example: You are my sunshine.

A **simile** compares one thing to another, often using the words 'like' or 'as'.

Example: Her eyes were like blue sapphires.

1. Motivation

Introduce the special person for the poetry.

'Think, pair, share' *'Who will you write your poem about?'*

Ask students to describe their special person to their partner.

Share an exemplar

Metaphor poem — read one of the [exemplar poems for Mothers' Day](#)

Simile poem — read 'My Mum' or 'My Dad' by Anthony Browne

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l74KmtKyhho>

Ask the students: *'What do you notice about this poem/text?'*

Metaphor poem: Proper/pronoun is a __, __ing Example: *My nana is an ocean, casting bad times away.*

Simile poem: My dad can ... like a ... OR My dad's as ... as a ...

2. Generating ideas

Discuss the metaphors/similes used by the author. Ask students to identify one that they think is unique and interesting and to share with their partner. Then share examples as a class.


'What will you compare your special person to?'

Make a list of ideas. For metaphor poems, it works well to list possible categories. For example, *animals, special objects, nature, weather, special clothing, tasty food.*

Students could:

- list ideas on whiteboards
- share ideas with a partner
- go for a 'walk and talk' and share ideas with other students.

3. Possible criteria — unpack with the students and record visually

Early writers	Fluent writers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write four similes (like a / as ___ as) <i>Note: consider choosing one option</i>• A. (capital and full stop for each simile)• New simile = new line  Challenge: include four 'wow' words.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write four metaphors• Add more detail using the structure: Proper noun/pronoun is a ___, ing verb ...• Use interesting and unique comparisons

4. Mini-lesson and shared writing

Model writing a simile/metaphor using the structure above.

Examples:

My nana is an ocean, casting bad times away.

My nana is like a crystal blue ocean.

Mini-lessons: Students write a metaphor or simile about their special person.

Partner-check: Share the simile/metaphor with a partner and check it meets the criteria.

Note: students could use this simile/metaphor in their poems.

5. Independent writing

Students write their poem.

6. Self-check (Model this first if the students are not familiar with proofreading.)

Read your poem in a quiet voice.

Does each simile/metaphor start with a capital and end with a full stop?

Check the structure of the simile/metaphor.

7. Partner-check (Model this first if the students are not familiar with 'partner-checking'.)

I like ... because ...

Choose your favourite simile/metaphor. Identify it with an SS (super simile) or SM (super metaphor) in the margin.

8. Wrap-up

Project an example of a poem from one of the students onto a screen/board (ask permission first).

1. Give the author feedback: *I like ... because ...*
2. Share the super metaphor or super simile.
3. Ask students to share their examples.



Simile poem – highlight/circle four 'wow' words (the challenge for the lesson).

Metaphor poem

Can we improve one simile/metaphor?

Ask students to work with their partner to improve a line in their poem.

For more information about the organisation of a writing lesson, refer to *The Writing Book* (Cameron and Dempsey, 2013). www.thewritingbook.com