Comparison Detectives

Sort comparisons and explain what they mean.

5.LF.12 "Interpret the meaning of words, phrases, and patterns as they are used in texts, including domain-specific and academic vocabulary and figurative language. a. Locate similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole, imagery, alliteration..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SIMILE

A simile compares two unlike things using like or as. The comparison helps you picture or understand something.

The puppy bounced like a spring.

METAPHOR

A metaphor compares two unlike things by saying one thing is another. It does not use like or as to make the comparison.

The old engine was a grumpy bear.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SIMILE or METAPHOR for each item, then choose two items and explain the clue and meaning of each comparison.

1. The moon hung like a silver coin above our camp. SIMILE METAPHOR

2. In the wind, the tall grass swayed like dancers. SIMILE METAPHOR

3. Before the spelling bee, my stomach was a knot. SIMILE METAPHOR

4. The river curved like a ribbon through the valley. SIMILE METAPHOR

5. At sunset, the lake was a sheet of orange glass. SIMILE METAPHOR

6. After the loss, the locker room was a silent cave. SIMILE METAPHOR

7. The new student smiled as brightly as sunshine. SIMILE METAPHOR

8. Nina slipped past the defenders like a shadow. SIMILE METAPHOR

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new simile and one new metaphor about a rainy day.

SIMILE _____

METAPHOR _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one of your new comparisons and explain what it helps a reader imagine.

ANSWER KEY

Comparison Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.12

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The moon hung like a silver coin above our camp.	**SIMILE**	Like compares the moon to a coin, suggesting a round, shining shape.
2	In the wind, the tall grass swayed like dancers.	**SIMILE**	Like compares the grass to dancers, suggesting graceful movement.
3	Before the spelling bee, my stomach was a knot.	**METAPHOR**	The stomach is called a knot to show nervous tension.
4	The river curved like a ribbon through the valley.	**SIMILE**	Like compares the river to a ribbon, suggesting a long, winding shape.
5	At sunset, the lake was a sheet of orange glass.	**METAPHOR**	The lake is called glass to suggest a smooth, reflective surface.
6	After the loss, the locker room was a silent cave.	**METAPHOR**	The locker room is called a cave to emphasize how quiet it felt.
7	The new student smiled as brightly as sunshine.	**SIMILE**	As brightly as compares the smile to sunshine, suggesting warmth and cheer.
8	Nina slipped past the defenders like a shadow.	**SIMILE**	Like compares Nina to a shadow, suggesting she moved without being noticed.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SIMILE**: Raindrops slid down the window like tiny beads.
- **METAPHOR**: The gray sky was a heavy curtain over our street.

Challenge: My simile helps readers picture small, round drops sliding down the window.

For Part 2, look for two item numbers, each with a correct comparison clue and a meaning that fits the sentence.