Comparison Detectives

Sort two kinds of comparisons.

5.RC.12 "Identify relationships among words, including multiple meanings, synonyms and antonyms, homographs, metaphors, similes, and analogies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SIMILE

A simile compares two things using like or as. It helps you picture how they are alike.

The puppy slept like a log.

METAPHOR

A metaphor describes one thing as if it were another. It does not use like or as to make the comparison.

The storm was an angry drummer.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SIMILE or METAPHOR for each numbered item, then choose two items, one from each category, and explain how you knew.

1. The hallway was a river of students. SIMILE METAPHOR

2. Her laugh sounded like a bell. SIMILE METAPHOR

3. The moon glowed like a lantern. SIMILE METAPHOR

4. His words were sharp arrows. SIMILE METAPHOR

5. The old car was a tired turtle. SIMILE METAPHOR

6. The test was a mountain to climb. SIMILE METAPHOR

7. The leaves spun like pinwheels. SIMILE METAPHOR

8. The water felt as cold as ice. SIMILE METAPHOR

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose two items, one from each category, and explain how you knew.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new simile and one new metaphor.

SIMILE _____

METAPHOR _____

CHALLENGE

Choose two new things to compare. Write a simile and a metaphor comparing the same two things, then name the word that makes your simile a simile.

ANSWER KEY

Comparison Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.RC.12

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The hallway was a river of students.	**METAPHOR**	The hallway is described as a river without like or as.
2	Her laugh sounded like a bell.	**SIMILE**	Like compares her laugh to a bell.
3	The moon glowed like a lantern.	**SIMILE**	Like compares the moon to a lantern.
4	His words were sharp arrows.	**METAPHOR**	His words are described as arrows without like or as.
5	The old car was a tired turtle.	**METAPHOR**	The car is described as a turtle without like or as.
6	The test was a mountain to climb.	**METAPHOR**	The test is described as a mountain without like or as.
7	The leaves spun like pinwheels.	**SIMILE**	Like compares the spinning leaves to pinwheels.
8	The water felt as cold as ice.	**SIMILE**	As compares the water's coldness to ice.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose two items, one from each category, and explain how you knew.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SIMILE**: The bicycle sped like a rocket.
- **METAPHOR**: The library was a quiet cave.

Challenge: The sun was like a golden coin. The sun was a golden coin. The word like makes the first sentence a simile.

For Part 2, explanations should identify the comparison and tell whether it uses like or as. For example, item 2 uses like to compare a laugh to a bell, while item 4 describes words as arrows without like or as.