



# Metaphors

Read this **poem** aloud.

## What is the Sun?

the Sun is an orange dinghy  
 sailing across a calm sea

it is a gold coin  
 dropped down a drain in Heaven

the Sun is a yellow beach ball  
 kicked high into the summer sky

it is a red thumb-print  
 on a sheet of pale blue paper

the Sun is a milk bottle's gold top  
 floating in a puddle



Wes Magee

How many **metaphors** for the Sun can you find in this **poem**? Make a list of them below.  
**Remember:** A **metaphor** is something described as if it were something else. It is like a simile but does not include the words like or as.

*an orange dinghy,*.....

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Rewrite one of the five **verses**, and change the **metaphor** to a **simile**. To do this, you only need to add one word.

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Pick a **verse** from the **poem**, and write a short paragraph explaining what is meant by the description of the Sun.

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Which of the **metaphors** in the **poem** seems most effective to you? Why?

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# Write your own metaphors



Use the pattern of the **poem** *What is the Sun* to write a **poem** of your own that includes **metaphors**. Choose one of the **titles** below or make up your own.

What is a cloud?

What is the sea?

What is the Moon?

What is .....? (your choice)



..... (title)

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How many **metaphors** for the Sun can you find in this **poem**? Make a list of them below.

**Remember:** A **metaphor** is something described as if it were something else. It is like a simile but does not include the words **like** or **as**.

*an orange dinghy, a gold coin, a yellow beachball, a red thumb-print,*  
*a milk bottle's gold top*

Rewrite one of the five **verses**, and change the **metaphor** to a **simile**. To do this, you only need to add one word.

*the Sun is like an orange dinghy*  
*sailing across a calm sea*

Pick a **verse** from the **poem**, and write a short paragraph explaining what is meant by the description of the Sun.

Which of the **metaphors** in the **poem** seems most effective to you? Why?

This page helps your child to appreciate how metaphor works and to differentiate between metaphor and simile. Again, the questions are open-ended – accept any answers that can be sensibly argued from the poem.

# Write your own metaphors



Use the pattern of the poem *What is the Sun* to write a poem of your own that includes metaphors. Choose one of the titles below or make up your own.

What is a cloud?

What is the sea?

What is the Moon?

What is .....? (your choice)



..... (title)

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Answers may vary

Here the task is to write a poem using metaphors. This activity gives your child practice in finding effective metaphors for use in his or her own writing. Encourage your child to read the finished poem to you. Remember to praise his or her efforts.