

Grade 6 English Language Arts

Week of Sept 28- Oct 2

Curricular Area: Language – Descriptive Texts

Lesson Materials (Included in this PDF)

- Lesson 1.3 Literary Devices
- 1.3 Learning Guide

In this lesson, you will read, view, listen to, and create descriptive writing to learn:

- some parts of speech and literary devices used to make descriptive writing come to life
- how you can find evidence in descriptive writing to support your ideas
- characteristics of good descriptive writing
- how descriptive text and videos helps a reader visualize images in their mind

While exploring descriptive writing, you will be asked to think about communication:

- How do you like to communicate?
- How do you like to share information with others?
- What are some strategies you use to present information clearly and in an organized way?
- How do you like to show your learning?

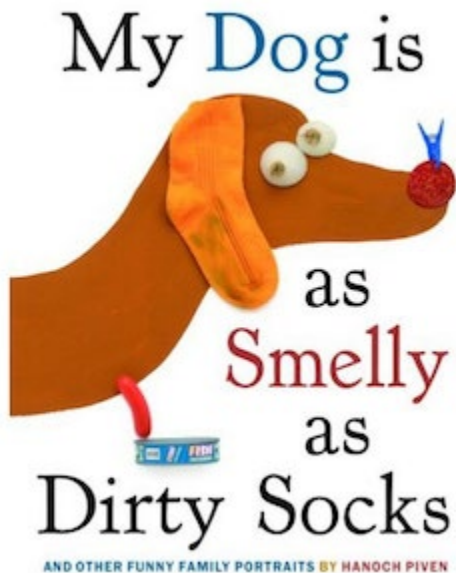
Task

Read through the lessons for Section 1.3 Literary Devices in this Learning Guide. As you are reading the lesson pages, complete the activities in the Learning Guide. You can print the Learning Guide, or, copy out the questions onto a separate piece of paper.

Be sure to spend time on independent reading practice with a book of your choice.

Lesson 1.3 Literary Devices

Similes are a way to compare two things using the words *like* or *as*.



Using a comparison helps readers visualize better. Check out this sentence without a simile.

My dog is smelly. (This works, but it's pretty basic.)

Check it out after it has been spruced up with the addition of a simile.

My dog is as smelly as dirty socks.

How does a simile work?

We know that dirty socks smell badly. In fact, many of us have memories of having smelled dirty socks. Yuck! By comparing the dog to dirty socks, the reader knows that the dog smells that badly!

You can make the sentence, *My dog is as smelly as dirty socks*, even more descriptive by adding more details to make your simile even more descriptive. Take a look:

My dog is as smelly as dirty socks marinating in rotten onion juice at the bottom of a full garbage can.

Here is a catchy song that is overflowing with similes! Listen to it over and over to help you remember what similes are.

[Click here for the song](#)

Read the following excerpt from Lemony Snicket that reflects a strong sense of a place called "home".

Before reading, **connect**: Does your home have a special smell or feel to it? Do you have a place in your home that gives you comfort?

This next excerpt really shows appreciation for "home". As you read it, notice the similes that are highlighted. What is home being compared to?

*"There is something marvelous about returning home at the end of a long day, even if there is tuna fish for dinner... It is always sad when someone leaves home, unless they are simply going around the corner and will return in a few minutes with ice-cream sandwiches. One's **home is like a delicious piece of pie** you order in a restaurant on a country road one cozy evening--the best piece of pie you have ever eaten in your life--and can never find again. After you leave home, you may find yourself feeling homesick, even if you have a new home that has nicer wallpaper and a more efficient dishwasher than the home in which you grew up, and no matter how many times you visit you may never quite cure yourself of the fluttery, homesick feeling in your stomach. Homesickness can even strike you when you are still living at home, but a home that has changed over the years, and you long for the time--even if such a time existed only in your imagination--when **your home was as delicious as you remember**. You may search your family and your mind--just as you might search dark and winding country roads--trying to recapture the best time in your life, so that you might cure your homesickness with a second slice of that distant, faraway pie."*

Source: (Lemony Snicket. *Horseradish : Bitter Truths You Can't Avoid*. New York, Harpercollinspublishers, 2007.)

In your Learning Guide, complete the **Simile Search**.

A metaphor is a direct comparison between two different things. It does NOT use *like* or *as*.

A metaphor provides a strong visual. For example:

The voters are kettles screaming with anger and shooting off spouts of steam.

The comparison helps you to see how angry the voters really must be. They are likely screaming and spouting off angry words.

Metaphors are often used to describe abstract nouns - things like love, kindness, and anger. They provide a concrete noun to help the reader visualize what you are talking about. For example:

Love (an abstract noun) is a spring bloom (a concrete noun) after the rain.

(This helps you visualize a flower just blossoming after the rain as a way to see what love is.)

For example:

Kindness is a well-thrown boomerang – it always comes back.

(When you throw a boomerang right, it comes back to you - and this comparison is saying the same thing happens with being kind to others. A simile would say "kindness is LIKE a well-thrown boomerang." A metaphor says "kindness is a well-thrown boomerang.").

Sometimes people get metaphors and similes mixed up. How can you remember which is which?

- Similes use *like* or *as* in their comparisons.
 - For example: *Shania is as smart as an army of geniuses.* (SIMILE)
- Metaphors make direct comparisons.
 - For example: *Shania is her own army of geniuses.* (METAPHOR)
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[Watch this video for more examples.](#)

Now, go to your Learning Guide and complete Metaphor Search and Comparisons and Emotions.

1.3 Literary Devices Learning Guide

Simile Search

In the Lemony Snicket excerpt, what are your favourite descriptive phrases? Why do you like them?

1. Phrase:

Why I like it?

2. Phrase:

Why I like it?

3. How does the author feel about “home”? How do you know?

4. Read the following piece of descriptive writing and underline the similes. (HINT: There are two similes even though one of the word clues – like/as – is used more often. Similes must COMPARE two things.)

Not far from my house, next to the babbling river, is my favourite place to relax. The river is like a young deer, bouncing and leaping between the banks. The sound of the flow is mesmerizing, and the taste of the air is fresh and clean. The grass, as soft as a pillow, cushions my head as I gaze at the cedar tree that towers above. Below the depths, I know the salmon gaze at the same tree, thanking it for its shade and protection.

Think of something in, around, or about your home. It could be a room (like your bedroom or the kitchen, a special object, or the home in general). Write a one sentence simile to describe it.

[Click here to check your answers](#), then return to the lesson booklet.

Metaphor Search

Read the following piece of descriptive writing and underline the metaphors. (HINT: There are two metaphors.)

My forest clearing was my primitive sanctuary. I was always in awe of the size and majesty of the trees. Their knotted arms rose upwards as far as my head could lift. The trees were fortresses that stood proudly around the clearing. The orchestra of birdsong filled my ears with their magical tunes. The morning stars peeked through the branches like silver asters, glinting and shimmering. The wild basil grew freely on the clumpy, mossy mattress of the forest floor. The whispering wind carried the fragrance of the mulchy mix of the forest's perfume.

Think of something in, around, or about your home. It could be a room (like your bedroom or the kitchen, a special object, or the home in general). Write a one sentence metaphor to describe it.

[Click here to check your answers](#), then return to the online lesson.

Comparisons and Emotions

Metaphors and similes are a great way to help people understand abstract ideas and feelings about places. They put concrete visuals alongside an intangible (abstract) idea. Read the following sentences that each address one of senses. They are all describing a place that is special to the writer. See if you can figure out what feeling is being described.

If I was blindfolded, I would be able to tell when I had arrived at my home away from home. The crisp, cool air would fill my lungs as if it were a winter day. The sound of blades would swoosh like waves on an ocean beach, begging me to join the fun. The smell of hot dogs and fries enjoyed in the bleachers would make a carnival, but with cold air. I would anticipate the spout from the plastic water bottle – a pipe pushing through my mask into my mouth to quench my well-earned thirst. If you removed my blindfold, I'd see the welcoming smiles of my coach and teammates as we hit the ice like a pack of wolves circling for the win.

What are these sentences are describing?

How does the writer feel about this place?

Underline the similes in the above paragraph with one line.

Underline the metaphor in the above paragraph with two lines.