

Similes

Name _____ Date _____

My little brother is as clumsy a bull in a china shop when he runs through my room!

Mary Ellen acts like a big baby when she doesn't get her way.

The sunset looks like a dazzling watercolor painting.

Similes, similes, similes. They're everywhere! **When we compare two things, using the words *like* or *as*, it's called a simile.** Picturing something in your mind helps you understand it better. Similes show us the qualities of an object or person by comparing it to something else.

For instance, read the following simile:

K'nesha is as light on her feet as a ballet dancer.



You get a picture in your mind of a dancer's graceful movements.

Whoever K'nesha is, you know she must be graceful. Here's another example:

His grin was as toothy as a great white shark's.



The writer wants you to know his character's smile was toothy, and it's easy to picture when it is compared to a shark's. Try finishing these simile beginnings so your reader gets a vivid picture of what you're trying to describe:

1. Hannah was as mad as _____.

2. Waiting for the doctor, I was as nervous as _____

_____.

3. Mother hyenas protect their young like _____

_____.

4. Manatees, also known as sea cows, are like _____

_____.

Simile City

A Three-Minute Play by Melissa Forney



Miles Magnum: (Private detective voice) It was a city that could break your heart into a million pieces. A city that never sleeps. I was feeling as worn out as an old piece of shoe leather when the phone rang. (Ring, Ring) Hello. You've reached Like-or-As Detective Agency. Miles Magnum, private investigator, speaking.

Jane Doe: My name is Jane Doe, Mr. Magnum. I have a problem. A perplexing problem.

Miles Magnum: For me, solving problems is like taking candy from a baby.

Jane Doe: Well, I'm new in town. Just off the bus from Mundane. I've only been here one day and...(Begins to cry)...everyone's comparing me to things. Why? WHY? (Cries harder)

Miles Magnum: (To audience) She was sobbing like a baby with an empty bottle. (To Jane) Comparing you...to things. Can you give me an example, Miss Doe?

Jane Doe: (Sniffing) I'll...try...to. I got off the bus yesterday and the bus driver said, "You look as tired as a new mother with triplets."

Miles Magnum: I see...

Jane Doe: And then, a lady in the hotel lobby said, "Welcome to town, Honey. Why, you're as cute as a button." (Sob) Next, I called an employment agency and after I explained who I was she said, "You sound like a woman who's looking for a job." (Sob) See what I mean? Everyone in town compares me to something!

Miles Magnum: I see your dilemma....Hmmm...Let me ask you a question. Do they use the words "like" or "as" when they make these comparisons?

Jane Doe: Yes! Oh, Mr. Magnum. How did you know?

Miles Magnum: You've got nothing to worry about, Sister. Don't you know what town you're in?

Jane Doe: Well, it's a cute little town, but I didn't actually catch the name...

Miles Magnum: You're in Simile City, where similes are as common as fleas on a hound dog.

Jane Doe: Similes?

Miles Magnum: When we compare two things, using the words like or as, it's called a simile. We do it all the time and...it's a very *mature* thing to do, I might add.

Jane Doe: So it's not just me? Oh, thank you, Mr. Magnum. I'm as relieved as a patient who's just gotten good news from the doctor. (Cheerfully) Good-bye, and thank you. You've helped me a great deal.

Miles Magnum: Any time. Take care of yourself. (To audience) I locked my office and stepped out into the night. It was as cold as a polar bear's nose, but that didn't slow me down. I was from Simile City and I'd just helped a lady in distress. I felt like a million bucks.