

Name _____



Hello, Harvest Moon

Metaphors, Similes, and Personification

Metaphors, similes, and personification are similar writing techniques that help a writer describe everyday objects in new ways.

A metaphor is a comparison of two different things. When you use a metaphor, you say that something is the same as something else, even though it really isn't. The metaphor is not introduced by the terms *like* or *as*, but is used to describe something it normally wouldn't.

Example: Alice was drowning in tears.

Alice isn't really drowning; it is impossible for a person to make enough tears to drown in. The use of metaphor shows us that she was, however, crying very hard and creating a lot of tears.

A simile also compares two unlike things, but a simile is introduced by the words *like* or *as*. Sometimes they can even begin with *seems*. Similes and metaphors are often confused, but if you remember that a simile uses one of those words, it is easy to keep them separated.

Example: Kim cried as if it were the end of the world.

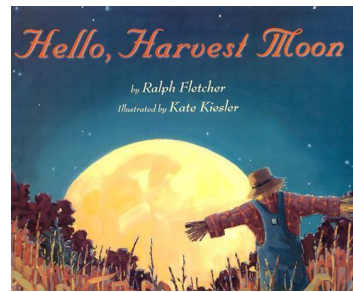
We still know that Kim was crying, perhaps just as hard as Alice. But in this case we used a simile to demonstrate instead of a metaphor.

Personification means attributing human thoughts, feelings, and/or actions to things that are not human.

Example: The sky wept all night, causing the streets to flood.

Still using the example of tears, we can see that the author has attributed a human action—weeping—to the sky. The sky can't really cry; it has no eyes or tear ducts. The personification tells us that it was raining very hard.

On the following page, there are some sentences and phrases taken from Ralph Fletcher's book, *Hello, Harvest Moon*. Your job is to figure out whether each phrase is a metaphor, a simile, or personification.



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Metaphors, Similes, and Personification

Decide if each sentence is a metaphor, a simile, or an example of personification. Write M for metaphor, S for simile, or P for personification in the blank.

1. _____...staining earth and sky with a ghostly glow.
2. _____ Outside, the yards and streets seem to be covered by a sparkling tablecloth.
3. _____ Birch trees shine as if they have been double-dipped in moonlight
4. _____...an insect drawn to the great lamp in the sky.
5. _____ It paints the wings of owls and nighthawks with a mixture of silver and shadow.
6. _____...spilling out spores like tiny moonlings floating up to their mother
7. _____ It speaks to the moonflowers...
8. _____ Grabbing whole oceans with its arms, it pulls in the tide.
9. _____ Sprinkling silver coins like a careless millionaire over ponds, lakes, and fields
10. _____ A sleepy head, winking, falling, slow motion, onto its pillow.

Answers

1. ___M___...staining earth and sky with a ghostly glow.
2. ___S___ Outside, the yards and streets seem to be covered by a sparkling tablecloth.
3. ___S___ Birch trees shine as if they have been double-dipped in moonlight
4. ___M___...an insect drawn to the great lamp in the sky.
5. ___P___ It paints the wings of owls and nighthawks with a mixture of silver and shadow.
6. ___S___...spilling out spores like tiny moonlings floating up to their mother
7. ___P___ It speaks to the moonflowers...
8. ___P___ Grabbing whole oceans with its arms, it pulls in the high tide.
9. ___S_ or P___ Sprinkling silver coins like a careless millionaire over ponds, lakes, and fields
10. ___P___ A sleepy head, winking, falling, slow motion, onto its pillow.