**Similes and Metaphors**

A simile is a phrase or word that describes one thing as *similar* to another, often unrelated thing. An example is "Jane went up the stairs as quiet as a mouse." Similes use the words "like" and/ or "as".

A metaphor is a phrase or word that states that one thing *is* another, often unrelated thing. An example is “Harold is a snake."

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| |  | | --- | | Read the following sentences. At the end of the sentence, write in brackets whether the sentence is an example of a metaphor (M) or simile (S).  Example: The clouds were fluffy like cotton wool. (S)   1. As slippery as an eel. 2. He was a lion in battle. 3. She is as pretty as a picture. 4. The striker was a goal machine. 5. The moon was a misty shadow. 6. His eyes sparkled like a diamond.   Now you are going to make up similes and metaphors of your own by finishing these sentences.   1. As heavy as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. He was a cold \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. She had skin like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. As cool as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. The mountain was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Slippery like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |

**Thumbprint** by Eve Merriam

In the heel of my thumb

are whorls, whirls, wheels

in a unique design:

mine alone.

What a treasure to own!

My own flesh, my own feelings.

No other, however grand or base,

can ever contain the same.

My signature,

thumbing the pages of my time.

My universe key,

my singularity.

Impress, implant,

I am myself,

Of all my atom parts I am the sum.

And out of my blood and my brain

I make my own interior weather,

My own sun and rain.

Imprint my mark upon the world,

whatever I shall become.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What is the “treasure” of which the speaker is proud?
2. To the speaker, what does her thumbprint represent?
3. Identify two examples of alliteration in this poem.
4. Give an example of a metaphor the poet uses to describe her thumbprint?

**Personification and Hyperboles**

Personification is when you give a human quality to an inanimate object.

Personification is a comparison that treats things as if they were capable of the actions and feelings of people.

Personifications are things we feel but don’t literally see.

Examples of personification:

MC900023317[1] The moon slept in the night sky.

The star is winking at me.

A hyperbole is any extravagant statement or exaggeration for effect.

Hyperbole is used as a figure of speech. For example: I could sleep for a year!

Examples of hyperboles:

He’s so mean he eats snakes for breakfast. MC900203144[1]

I’m so hungry I could eat a horse.

Identify whether the following sentences use a hyperbole (H) or personification (P):

1. The flames called out their names.
2. After shoveling snow I was so tired I couldn’t move.
3. The clock told us it was time to go.
4. She hit the ball hard enough to fly all the way to Pittsburgh.
5. The wind whispered to the trees.
6. It was so cold her car laughed at her when she tried to start it.
7. After the dance my feet were killing me.
8. All day long I worked my fingers to the bone.