Analogies (11th and 12th)

A simple **analogy** is a word puzzle that you solve by figuring out the comparison between two words so that you can complete a second set of words using the same comparison.

  Example: gross : disgusting :: delicious : scrumptious

Writers, however, don't write analogies like this. Instead, **analogies** in literature are used to describe something in detail by drawing comparisons to something more common, but unlike the first thing.

Similes and metaphors are tools that writers use to develop **analogies**. While a simile or metaphor is more succinct, an **analogy** is more extended.

  Example: The dishwasher is like a dragon. It growls and snarls, giving
  off fire as it washes the dishes. Then, as it finishes is rampage, steam emerges and it is once
  again silent.

This comparison draws an **analogy** between the characteristics of a dragon and the characteristics of a dishwasher.

Exercise:
Explain the analogy in the following examples from literature. What is being compared, and why is the comparison effective?

From the poem "Night Clouds" by Amy Lowell:
The white mares of the moon rush along the sky
Beating their golden hoofs upon the glass heavens;
The white mares of the moon are all standing on their hind legs
Pawing at the green porcelain doors of the remote heavens
Fly, Mares!
Strain your utmost Scatter the milky dust of stars,

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From *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare:
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more. It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound a fury,
Signifying nothing.

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Strain your utmost Scatter the milky dust of stars,
An analogy is drawn between the night clouds moving across the sky and white mares running.

Just like mares beat their hooves, paw at the grass, and scatter dust as they run, the night clouds

Beat and paw on the skies, and they scatter the stars like dust.

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Two analogies are drawn here. The first draws a comparison between life and an actor in a play. Just

As the play is temporary and over in an "hour," our lives are temporary. A second comparison is

Drawn between life and a story told by an idiot. Just as the story is meaningless, life is meaningless.