

Name: _____

Date: _____

Interpreting Similes

Similes, comparisons using “like” or “as” to compare two unlike objects, are used by writers and speakers to make their text more interesting and descriptive. **Similes** can help a writer paint a more specific picture by helping the reader to understand the characteristics of one thing by comparing it to something else.

Example: I wandered lonely as a cloud that floats on high over hill
and vale. (William Wordsworth)

In this poem, Wordsworth compares himself to a cloud—showing how he is isolated from company in the same way that a lone cloud in the sky is isolated.

Exercise:

Find the simile in each line of text. Name the two things being compared and explain the comparison.

She tried to get rid of the kitten which had scrambled up her back and stuck like a burr just out of reach. (Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*)

The very mystery of him excited her curiosity like a door that has neither lock nor key. (Margaret Mitchell, *Gone with the Wind*)

The late afternoon sky bloomed in the window for a moment like the blue honey of the Mediterranean. (F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*)

The other was fair . . . with great masses of golden hair and eyes like pale sapphires. (Bram Stoker, *Dracula*)

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ANSWERS--Interpreting Similes

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She tried to get rid of the kitten which had scrambled up her back and stuck like a burr just out of reach. (Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*)

The kitten is compared to a burr. The kitten is clinging to the girl's back with its little claws, the same way that a burr would stick to clothing with its little spikes.

The very mystery of him excited her curiosity like a door that has neither lock nor key. (Margaret Mitchell, *Gone with the Wind*)

The man is compared to a door that doesn't have a lock or a key. He is a mystery that cannot be solved—like a door that cannot be open.

The late afternoon sky bloomed in the window for a moment like the blue honey of the Mediterranean. (F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*)

The sky is compared to the Mediterranean sea. The Mediterranean is supposed to be blue and sparkling, so the sky must be very blue.

The other was fair . . . with great masses of golden hair and eyes like pale sapphires. (Bram Stoker, *Dracula*)

The eyes of the lady are compared to sapphires, which would mean that they are a pale blue color.