

Name: _____

Date: _____

Metaphors: Understanding Comparisons

Remember that a **metaphor** compares two things that are not alike by saying that one thing is the other.

Example: My brother is a pirate because he takes my things without asking.
The weather is pea soup today.

Metaphors can help to paint a clearer picture of what the author is trying to say.

Example: If my brother is a pirate, he steals things that don't belong to him.
If the weather is pea soup, it means that it is foggy and rainy.

It is important to understand **metaphors** so that you can understand what the author is trying to say.

Exercise:

Read each metaphor. Explain the comparison in your own words.

1. Lisa is an innocent lamb when it comes to playing mean tricks on other people.

2. Coach Jordan is our tower of strength when we face a difficult game.

3. My backpack was a bag of rocks weighing me down on the way to school.

4. You are my sunshine—you make me happy when skies are gray.

5. The road to Mark's house was such a maze that my mom finally gave up and called for directions.

6. The swim meet was a piece of cake because we had trained hard.

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ANSWERS--Metaphors: Understanding Comparisons

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Exercise:

Read each metaphor. Explain the comparison in your own words.

1. Lisa is an innocent lamb when it comes to playing mean tricks on other people.

Lisa is not mean and she doesn't understand how to play mean tricks. She is like a lamb—young and innocent.

2. Coach Jordan is our tower of strength when we face a difficult game.

Coach Jordan is tall and solid, so when the team is afraid of a difficult game, they find strength in him.

3. My backpack was a bag of rocks weighing me down on the way to school.

The backpack was heavy—and maybe the books inside are like rocks.

4. You are my sunshine—you make me happy when skies are gray.

The person is cheerful and bright—bringing happiness on a gloomy day just like the sunshine.

5. The road to Mark's house was such a maze that my mom finally gave up and called for directions.

The road was curvy with turns and twists. It was easy to get lost.

6. The swim meet was a piece of cake because we had trained hard.

The swim meet was easy—like eating a piece of cake is pleasing and not hard to do!
