

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Similes: Understanding Comparisons

Remember that a **simile** uses “like” or “as” to compare two things.

Example: My brother is as cool as a cucumber.  
It is raining like cats and dogs.

**Similes** make our writing more interesting, and they help us to better describe what we mean.

Example: If my brother is “as cool as a cucumber,” it means that he is very calm and not agitated.  
If it is “raining like cats and dogs,” then it means it is raining very hard—large, heavy raindrops.

When you see similes, it is important to think about why the author makes the comparison—what is the author trying to show you with words?

#### Exercise:

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

1. The wind caressed my neck like the gentle hand of a mother.

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2. Even though she lost the game, Mary stood with her head up, as proud and immovable as a mountain.

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3. After playing all afternoon at the fall festival, the child slept as soundly as a bear hibernating for the winter.

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4. The smell of the apple pie wafted through the house and beckoned us to dinner as effectively as Mama’s call.

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5. My faithful dog Puddles followed me like my shadow when we lost our way in the woods near my house.

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### ANSWERS--Similes: Understanding Comparisons

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When you see similes, it is important to think about why the author makes the comparison—what is the author trying to show you with words?

#### Exercise:

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

**Answers may vary. Students should have a plausible explanation.**

1. The wind caressed my neck like the gentle hand of a mother.

*The wind is compared to a mother’s hand rubbing the back of the person’s neck gently. The wind is blowing gently on the neck.*

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2. Even though she lost the game, Mary stood with her head up, as proud and immovable as a mountain.

*Mary is compared to a mountain. Just like a mountain stands still and is not able to be moved, Mary is still proud and nothing can shake her—even losing.*

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3. After playing all afternoon at the fall festival, the child slept as soundly as a bear hibernating for the winter.

*The child is compared to a hibernating bear. After playing all afternoon, he is very tired, and he is sleeping very deeply.*

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4. The smell of the apple pie wafted through the house and beckoned us to dinner as effectively as Mama’s call.

*The smell of the apple pie is compared to the Mama’s call to dinner. The mom doesn’t have to call the kids because the smell of the pie “calls” them.*

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5. My faithful dog Puddles followed me like my shadow when we lost our way in the woods near my house.

*Puddles is compared to a shadow. The dog followed the person very closely when the person was lost in the woods. The dog stayed right with her.*

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