

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

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

## Metaphor and Similes in Literature: A Challenge

You know that **metaphors** and **similes** compare unlike things and that a **simile** uses “like” or “as” in the comparison. It is relatively easy to identify the difference between a **metaphor** and a **simile** when they are straightforward. But, can you identify more complicated versions from literature?

### Exercise:

**Determine if the literary text is a metaphor or a simile. Write M or S on the line provided. Then, explain what is being compared.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Hope is the thing with feathers, / that perches in the soul, / and  
sings the tune—without the words, / and never stops at all. (Emily Dickenson)

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\_\_\_\_\_ I wandered lonely as a cloud / that floats on high over vale and hill.  
/ When all at once I saw a crowd / a host of golden daffodils. (William  
Wordsworth)

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\_\_\_\_\_ I shall be telling this with a sigh / somewhere ages and ages hence.  
/ Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, / I took the one less traveled by, / and  
that has made all the difference. (Robert Frost)

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\_\_\_\_\_ Oh, my love’s like a red, red rose / that’s newly sprung in June; /  
Oh, my love’s like a melody / that’s sweetly played in June.

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## ANSWERS--Metaphor and Similes in Literature: A Challenge

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### Exercise:

**Determine if the literary text is a metaphor or a simile. Write M or S on the line provided. Then, explain what is being compared.**

  M   Hope is the thing with feathers, / that perches in the soul, / and  
sings the tune—without the words, / and never stops at all. (Emily Dickenson)  
*Hope is compared to a bird—a thing with feathers. It lives in the soul and sings  
Without stopping. So, hope is something that never stops and reminds you it’s there.*

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  S   I wandered lonely as a cloud / that floats on high over vale and hill.  
/ When all at once I saw a crowd / a host of golden daffodils. (William  
Wordsworth)  
*The person is compared to a lonely cloud that is floating in isolation.*

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  M   I shall be telling this with a sigh / somewhere ages and ages hence.  
/ Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, / I took the one less traveled by, / and  
that has made all the difference. (Robert Frost)  
*A decision made by the speaker is compared to choosing between two roads—two  
Paths. The choice has made a difference—the decision made a difference in life.*

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  S   Oh, my love’s like a red, red rose / that’s newly sprung in June; /  
Oh, my love’s like a melody / that’s sweetly played in June.  
*The speaker’s love is compared to a red rose and also to a melody. He is saying that  
His lover is young and sweet—like a new red rose or a melody.*

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