

Metaphor

A way to describe something by saying it is something else.

You are my sunshine

They were peas in a pod

Life is a rollercoaster

We use metaphors every day. Have you ever looked out the window and said...

"It's bucketing down!" to describe just how heavy the rain is?

There you go. You've used a metaphor.

Don't confuse metaphors with similes.

Similes compare two things by saying they are "like" or "as" one another.

Metaphors say one thing is another.

"His eyes are diamonds"

We don't need a detailed description to know that his eyes are bright, sparkling and precious.

Thanks to the metaphor, we paint our own picture, and the writer avoids using a clunky list of adjectives.

'Extended metaphors' are metaphors that run throughout a piece of work.

In the poem Valentine, Carol Ann Duffy writes: "I give you an onion..."

The onion is a metaphor that grows throughout the poem.

"It will blind you with tears like a lover...

Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips"

What does it mean that she gives her lover an onion, and not a rose?

What kind of picture does this paint?

Not a romantic one, and not a traditional one.

The onion represents a different kind of love.

Carol Ann Duffy shows us that love can be honest and uncomfortable.

Metaphors can explain complex ideas or feelings in just one simple image.

Adding a bit of flavour to your writing is a total piece of cake!