

Making Meaning of Metaphors – Classic

The Weaver

by Anonymous

My life is but a weaving, between my God and me,
I do not choose the colors, He worketh steadily.
Ofttimes he weaveth sorrow, and I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper, and I the underside.
Not till the loom is silent, and the shuttles cease to fly,
Will God unroll the canvas, and explain the reasons why
The dark threads are as needful in the skillful weaver's hand
As threads of gold and silver in the pattern He has planned.

He knows, He loves, He cares,
Nothing this truth can dim.
He gives His very best to those
Who leave the choice with Him.

Making Meaning of Metaphors – Classic Student Worksheet

Metaphor: A figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things **without** the use of **like** or **as**.

For example:

Education is a life raft in the ocean of the American job market.

Identify and explain the two, main, unlike things being compared in the poem that are being used as metaphors which the speaker uses to make sense of his life.

Good metaphors put very clear and memorable pictures inside of the reader's head. What picture does the poem give of the blanket that is his life?

What picture does the speaker give of God as the weaver of the speaker's life?

Making Meaning of Metaphor – Hip-Hop

Respiration

by Mos Def

- 1 The new moon rode high in the crown of the metropolis
Shinin', like who one top of this?
People was tusslin', arguin' and bustlin'
Gangstaz of Gotham hardcore hustlin'...
The cops and the robbers, they both partners, they all heartless
- 5 With no conscience, back streets stay darkened
Where unbeliever hearts stay hardened...
Like city lights stay throbbin'
You either make a way or stay sobbin', the shiny apple
Is bruised but sweet and if you choose to eat
- 10 You could lose your teeth, many crews retreat
Nightly news repeat, who got shot down and locked down
Spotlight to savages, NADSDAQ averages
My narrative, rose to explain this existence
Amidst the harbor lights which remain in the distance
- 15 So much on my mind that I can't recline
Blastin' holes in the night till she bled sunshine
Breathe in, inhale vapors from bright stars that shine
Breathe out, we smoke retrace the skyline
Heard the bass ride out like an ancient mating call
- 20 I can't take it y'all, I can feel the city breathin'
Chest heavin', against the flesh of the evening
Sigh before we die like the last train leavin'...

Making Meaning of Metaphor – Hip-Hop Student Worksheet

Metaphor: A figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things **without** the use of **like** or **as**.

For example:

Education is a life raft in the ocean of the American job market.

Identify the central metaphor in the verse and explain how the two unlike things are being compared to one another to illustrate the speaker's point.

Good metaphors put very clear and memorable pictures in the reader's head.

What picture is given in Lines 8-10, and what do these pictures stand for metaphorically?

Explain how you believe the speaker of the poem feels about New York City. Why?

Poetry Writing Exercise: Metaphor

Learning Objective: Students will identify and utilize the poetic device of metaphor.
Standards Addressed: 9/10 W&O 1.3, 1.4; LRA 3.7, 3.11; R 1.1, 1.2 11/12 LRA 3.4; W&O 1.1, 1.2; W 2.2
Materials needed: This worksheet.
Methodology: See below.

Create 3 metaphors comparing the universe to an object.

For example: The sun is a light bulb.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Create 3 metaphors comparing an emotion to an object.

For example: Sadness is a vacuum.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Create 3 metaphors comparing a person to an object.

For example: My father is a dictionary.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Write a poem using at least 3 metaphors comparing something important to you to how you feel about it.

For example:

Music Metaphor Poem

Music is a joy
Filling my heart with beats
Music is a flame
Filling my ears with heat
Music is my soul
Music makes me whole

Metaphor Poem

by _____