

# Creating Mind Pictures - Imagery

Listen carefully to the poem or to the lyrics of the music.

- In groups discuss the 'mind pictures' that the words have created. That is, what do you see in your mind when you hear the words? What do you feel? How does the poet or lyricist create atmosphere? Write down your ideas.

Now look at the pictures related to the poem or lyrics.

- How do the words of the poem or lyrics relate to the picture or pictures? Is it what you expected to see? Write down your ideas.

Appoint a spokesperson in your group and report your views to the class.

A writer uses words and a pen to create pictures that you 'see' in your mind, called imagery. An artist uses paint and a paint brush to create the pictures that you see.

Compare these two extracts:



It was night time in the city. Lights shone through the windows. The buildings were black. There were cats walking on the walls and a dog barked.

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The city lay asleep except for its twinkling eyes. The buildings were cloaked in a velvet blanket. The only movement was that of stray cats creeping along walls. In the distance, a dog lifted its head and howled at the moon.

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Which extract creates a more vivid picture in your mind? Why is this so?

A writer has many tools to use in order to create vivid imagery. We call these tools **Figures of Speech**. Here are a few of these tools.

- **Simile** (pronounced *sim-a-lee*)
- **Metaphor** (pronounced *met-a-for*)
- **Personification**
- **Alliteration**
- **Onomatopoeia** (pronounced *on-o-mat-o-pee-a*)





### The Tools in Action

I'm sure that you will agree that the second extract is far more vivid in its description and it therefore creates a more interesting *mind picture*. We are going to look at the different tools so that you can use them in your writing ...



# The Simile

The map of Italy looks *like* a boot.

This is a simile because it compares one thing to another thing. A simile is something that is similar and uses the words 'like' or 'as'.

It is a useful tool to have especially if you are describing something that other people might not have seen.

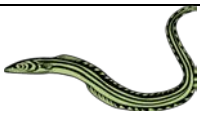


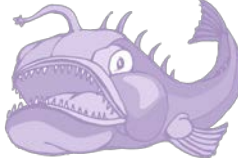
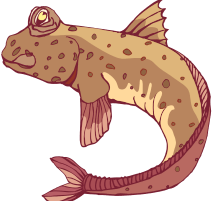
Imagine that you are snorkelling in the sea. You come across many unusual fish.

The fish had markings *like* an



underwater zebra.

Now it's your turn. Complete the similes below. Use an adjective and a noun.

| Picture   | What it describes                                       | Simile  |
|---|---|---|
|  | This simile describes the action of the eel.            | The eel slithered along the ocean bed <i>like</i> a/an _____.   |
|  | This simile describes the movement of the fish.         | The puffer swam along <i>like</i> a/an _____.   |
|  | This simile describes the shape of the shell.           | The shell looked <i>like</i> a/an _____.  |
|  | This simile describes the appearance of the face.       | The fish had a face <i>like</i> a/an _____.   |
|  | This simile describes the appearance of the upper body. | You could tell that it was a fish from the tail and fins, but its upper body was more <i>like</i> a/an _____. |

Marks 10