

## KS2 English Quiz - Metaphors (Questions)

This KS2 English quiz will test you on metaphors. A metaphor is a figure of speech. In his poem 'Timothy Winters', the poet Charles Causley describes a boy with 'ears like bombs', 'teeth like splinters' and 'eyes as wide as a football pool'. These similes are soon followed by a surprising metaphor: 'his hair is an exclamation mark'. Similes make interesting comparisons, but metaphors can be more effective because a metaphor says that an object or person is actually something else. Can you tell the difference between a simile and a metaphor?

Stories and poems become more interesting and 'alive' when you begin to use metaphors and similes. Next time you write something, try to add one of each.

Challenge yourself with this English quiz.

### 1. Which of the following is a metaphor?



- The cat slipped through the grass like a stealthy tiger.
- The cat was a stealthy tiger, slipping through the long grass.
- The cat was as stealthy as a tiger.
- The cat slipped through the grass as stealthily as a tiger.

### 2. Which of the following is a metaphor?



- The trees snapped like matchsticks.
- He crept as quietly as a mouse.
- He crept quietly like a mouse.
- The trees were matchsticks, snapping in the fierce winds.

### 3. Which of these is NOT a metaphor?



- The sky was a blanket of clouds.
- The sea was a roaring tiger.
- She stood as still as a statue.
- The lake was a mirror, perfectly reflecting the shoreline.

### 4. Which of these is NOT a metaphor?



- A thick blanket of snow lay over the hills.
- A fleece of snow had covered the field overnight.
- Snow covered the hills like a blanket.
- The field was a carpet of daisies.

5. Which of the following is a metaphor?



- The ship ploughed through the waves.
- Suddenly, the dancer wobbled like a top.
- The kitten cried like a baby.
- The moon shone as bright as the sun.

6. Complete this metaphor: With its locked doors and tiny window, the dark, cold room was a \_\_\_\_.



- prison.
- library.
- classroom.
- palace.

7. Complete this metaphor: She showed no sympathy or feelings for others, her heart was a \_\_\_\_.



- night star.
- golden locket.
- stone.
- lively spring.

8. Complete this metaphor: In the stadium, the cheering crowd was a \_\_\_\_ of blue.



- sea
- collection
- sky
- pile

9. Complete this metaphor: The narrow road \_\_\_\_ its way through the mountain pass.



- lost
- wriggled
- snaked
- continued on

10. Complete this metaphor: The stars were glittering \_\_\_\_ in the sky.



- dustily
- like jewels
- like gold
- diamonds

## KS2 English Quiz - Metaphors (Answers)

1. Which of the following is a metaphor?



- The cat slipped through the grass like a stealthy tiger.
- The cat was a stealthy tiger, slipping through the long grass.
- The cat was as stealthy as a tiger.
- The cat slipped through the grass as stealthily as a tiger.

These phrases: 'as ... as' and 'like a...', belong to similes. A metaphor explains that a thing or person IS something else, rather than like something else.

2. Which of the following is a metaphor?



- The trees snapped like matchsticks.
- He crept as quietly as a mouse.
- He crept quietly like a mouse.
- The trees were matchsticks, snapping in the fierce winds.

All the other answers have the words 'like' or 'as a' which should have given you a big clue!

3. Which of these is NOT a metaphor?



- The sky was a blanket of clouds.
- The sea was a roaring tiger.
- She stood as still as a statue.
- The lake was a mirror, perfectly reflecting the shoreline.

'As still as a statue' is a simile.

4. Which of these is NOT a metaphor?



- A thick blanket of snow lay over the hills.
- A fleece of snow had covered the field overnight.
- Snow covered the hills like a blanket.
- The field was a carpet of daisies.

In the first two answers, snow is 'a thick blanket' or 'a fleece'. In the fourth answer, the field is 'a carpet'.

5. Which of the following is a metaphor?



- The ship ploughed through the waves.
- Suddenly, the dancer wobbled like a top.
- The kitten cried like a baby.
- The moon shone as bright as the sun.

The other answers are similes.

6. Complete this metaphor: With its locked doors and tiny window, the dark, cold room was a \_\_\_\_.



- prison.
- library.
- classroom.
- palace.

If you imagine being in that room, which of the four answers best fits?

7. Complete this metaphor: She showed no sympathy or feelings for others, her heart was a \_\_\_\_.



- night star.
- golden locket.
- stone.
- lively spring.

Poets enjoy using metaphors for the heart - a heart can also be a 'closed book' or a 'traitor'!

8. Complete this metaphor: In the stadium, the cheering crowd was a \_\_\_\_ of blue.



- sea
- collection
- sky
- pile

'A sky of blue' doesn't go with the 'cheering crowd'.

9. Complete this metaphor: The narrow road \_\_\_\_ its way through the mountain pass.



- lost
- wriggled
- snaked
- continued on

Each of the answers works in the sentence, but only 'snaked' creates a metaphor - the road 'is' a snake.

10. Complete this metaphor: The stars were glittering \_\_\_\_ in the sky.



- dustily
- like jewels
- like gold
- diamonds

The second and third answers are similes.