

Analyzing Metaphors

How to identify what metaphors

are comparing:

- Determine the ideas that the objects represent
- Brainstorm the characteristics of both ideas
- Compare the characteristics and identify which ones they share
- Determine what the shared trait teaches you about the compared ideas



What metaphors do:

- Make writing more descriptive
- Make a description more emphatic or vivid
- Develops characterization & tone
 - If the characteristics are positive → creates a positive tone
 - If the characteristics are negative → creates a negative tone
- Helps to create imagery
- Makes the story more interesting/appealing to readers

Examples:

Kate has a heart of gold.

- Metaphor → compares Kate's character to the high worth of gold → emphasizes the rich morality of Kate's character

It's raining cats and dogs.

- Metaphor → compares the size of the rain to the size of live animals → emphasizes the enormous size of the rain drops.

His cotton candy insults did not offend her.

- Metaphor → compares the harshness of his insults to the softness of cotton candy → highlights the ineffectiveness of his insults, due to their soft delivery.