

Analyzing Similes

How to identify what similes are comparing:

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



What similes 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:

Children grow **like** weeds.

- Simile → compares growth of children to weeds → emphasizes the rapid rate that children grow

His smile is as bright **as** the Sun.

- Simile → compares his smile to the Sun → uses a lighthearted (positive) tone to exaggerate the radiance of his smile

She swims **like** a fish.

- Simile → compares her ability to swim to that of a fish → highlights her impressive swimming ability