

KEY STAGE	AGE
KS1	5-7
KS2	7-11
KS3	11-14 ✓
KS4	14-16
KS5	16-18

AT A GLANCE
• SIMILE & METAPHOR
• THE SEA
• CONCEIT POEMS
• REDRAFTING
• NATURE

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POETRYCLASS: FRESH IDEAS FOR POETRY LEARNING FROM THE POETRY SOCIETY

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SIMILE AND METAPHOR

BY STEPHEN KNIGHT

Give out copies of the accompanying sheets and read the metaphor poem *The Sea*, which was written in a Year 6 class with the students. Discuss the imagery – what is the sea being compared to? etc – and explain that the pupils began the poem by choosing two subjects – sea and church. They then brainstormed words and phrases associated with a church, and used these to describe the sea.

Getting inspiration

Brainstorm potential subjects for a poem then go through the whole process with the class. It is important that they choose two very different things (i.e. not two animals, nor two vehicles, nor things that share a vocabulary, like fish and river; the more different they are, the more interesting the result).

Start by choosing the subject of the poem, and then choose a second subject, or noun, by which to describe your original subject. After talking them through the process, let them write their own poems individually.

Pick a card

For older students, I devised sets of cards, as shown on the accompanying sheet. Each student chooses one card then brainstorms words and phrases associated

with the subject covered by the card. Only after this do they choose a second card. This prevents them from limiting the scope of their brainstorming.

The second card provides the subject or title of the poem. The card must be different from the first and can only be swapped for another if two subjects match; for example, nurse and hospital, though in different categories, share too much vocabulary to make for an interesting metaphorical comparison.



THE SEA

The sea is lofty, ancient and steeped,
Beautifully carved in stone.
Its bells clang and shimmer.
Its windows cast their multicoloured
Patterns on the floor.
The sea's doorways are arched,
The long wide benches are polished with use.
The space is full of echoes,
The organ shines and plays.
Hymns echo through the whole ocean.
The pulpit is solemn,
Its lectern an eagle.
The sturdy wooden cross reminds
Of crucifixion and of death.
Its floor is paved with tombstones.

YEAR 6 CLASS

SIMILE AND METAPHOR

1 Cut out these cards. Pick one and choose a word. Brainstorm words and phrases associated with that subject. Then do the same with another card.

<i>CARD 1</i>	<i>CARD 2</i>	<i>CARD 3</i>	<i>CARD 4</i>	<i>CARD 5</i>
ELEPHANT	BUTCHER	SHIP	HOSPITAL	CAMERA
DOG	DENTIST	TRACTOR	LIBRARY	SEA
LEOPARD	MOTHER	SUBMARINE	MUSEUM	CLOCK
FISH	TEACHER	CAR	PRISON	GARDEN
SPIDER	BABY	AEROPLANE	FOREST	CANDLE
HORSE	NURSE	BUS	SCHOOL	RIVER
LION	FATHER	BICYCLE	SHOP	FIRE
BIRD	OLD WOMAN	MOTORBIKE	CASTLE	TREE

2 Now use the images you brainstormed from your first card to write a metaphor poem about one of the words on your second card.

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POET'S TIP
Choose two very different things – the more different they are, the more interesting your poem will be.

NAME:

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