

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

AT A GLANCE
• USING ADJECTIVES
• SIMILE & METAPHOR
• NATURE
• IMAGERY
• CONCEIT POEMS

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POETRYCLASS: FRESH IDEAS FOR POETRY LEARNING FROM THE POETRY SOCIETY

A WAY INTO METAPHOR

BY ANDREW FUSEK PETERS

Aristotle said that metaphor implied a good eye for resemblance. This activity takes students through several stages to discover and develop imagery that will bring their poems to life.

Generating ideas

Begin by reading the poems overleaf with the students. Then ask them to think about the sun and come up with some adjectives to describe it (e.g. *yellow, round, hot, fiery, flashing*) and then to write simple similes based on this sentence structure: 'The sun is like a yellow...' 'The sun is like a hot...'

The students have to think of objects that are *yellow, hot* etc. Point out the poet's tip to them and encourage them that there is no right or wrong answer. Ask them to write down their similes.

Magic metaphor

Then show how they can transform these into metaphors simply by crossing out the word 'like':

'Grass is like a green jumper' becomes 'The grass is a green jumper'.

Explain that metaphor, instead of comparing, turns one object into another. It is a form of magic.

Extended metaphor

To stretch the students further, ask them to develop their images. If the tree is 'a tall fishing rod', what would it catch? If the sun is 'a car tyre', where is it going? You are trying to find ways to link the images

together on one theme. This is more subtle and stretching, but can transform a mundane metaphor into an un-clichéd and exciting poem.

Linking imagery

To complete a poem based on these metaphors, list the metaphors without mentioning the subject of the poem, except as the last word, as in the poem by Bridget Gibbs overleaf.

The Y10/11 group poem on the same sheet shows how images can be grouped together around one theme into a conceit. The subject was a tree, and we used the theme of angling to create a wonderful imagistic piece (which was chosen by the TES as *Poem of The Week*).



METAPHOR POEMS

Life boat floating round the earth
Car tyre zooming round the roundabout of space
Ball bouncing in the courts of games and gravity
Tin left open to shine
Small sweet waiting to be eaten by the soft tongue of the clouds
Sun.

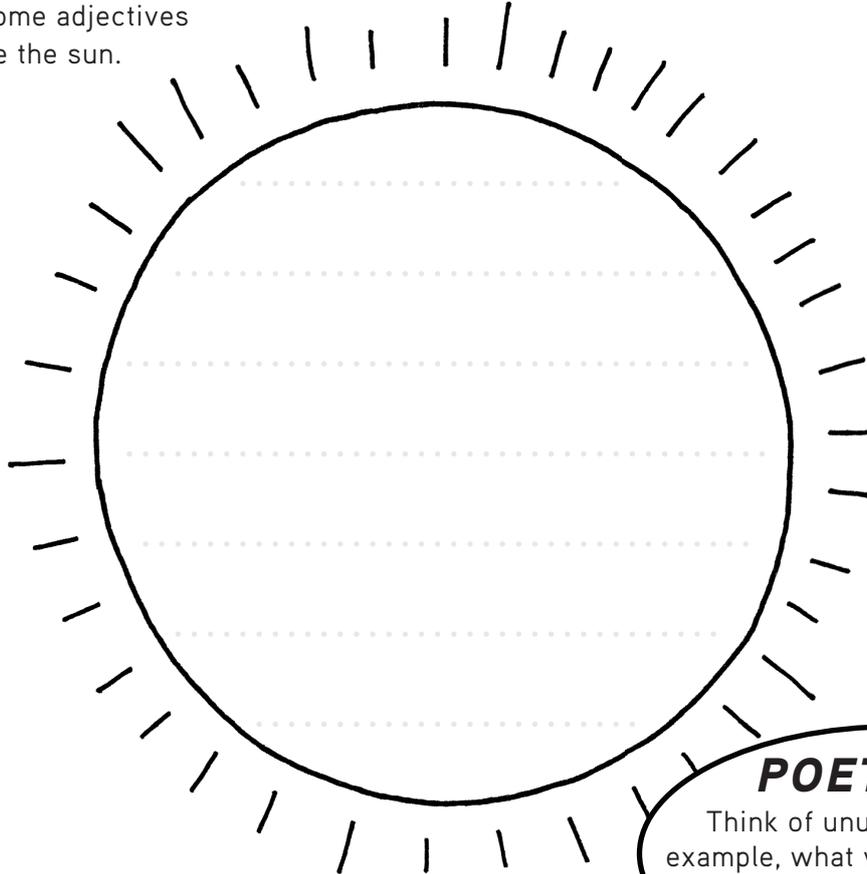
***BRIDGET GIBBS
YEAR 8***

The tree is a tall fishing rod
With buds for bait
Cloud catcher
In the pool of sky
Feathered fish float by.

***YEAR 10/11 GROUP POEM
ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL
NUNEATON***

A WAY INTO METAPHOR

1 Think of some adjectives to describe the sun.



2 Now write some simple similes, using this structure:

- The sun is like a yellow*
- The sun is like*
- The sun is like*
- The sun is like*

POET'S TIP
Think of unusual things – for example, what vegetables, flowers, or articles of clothing are yellow?
Be spontaneous!

3 Now cross out the word 'like' in each of your similes to turn them into metaphors. Link your metaphors together and build them into a poem.

NAME: