

Metaphor

Literal language: if something is **literal** it is accurate or precise.

- A **literal** description tells what actually happens.
- Something that is literal reports on events.
- An example would be 'he is lazy'

Metaphor: if something is a **metaphor** it is **not literal**.

• A **metaphor** does **not report on what actually happens**.

- A **metaphor** tells us more about something by bringing ideas together.
- An example would be 'he is a couch potato'

A **metaphor** has three parts:

The tenor: the thing you want to try and describe to your audience.







The vehicle: The imaginative idea you compare it with to help your audience understand it. This is the 'made up' bit.

The ground: the thing the tenor and the vehicle have in common.

Here is an example:

'**Achilles** fought like a **lion**' (both Achilles and the lion are **strong**)
Achilles is the tenor because he is the thing being described. The lion is the vehicle because it is the imaginative idea Achilles is compared to. The ground is that they are both strong because this is what they have in common.

The poems and their key metaphors

	<p>'Fog' – Carl Sandburg, 1878 – 1967 'The fog comes on little cat feet'</p>	<p>Both 'the fog' and the 'little cat feet' are grey, delicate and move gently.</p>
	<p>'November Night' – Adelaide Crapsey, 1878 – 1914 'like steps of passing ghosts,/ The leaves, frost – crisp'd, break from the trees and fall'</p>	<p>Both 'the leaves' and 'the steps of passing ghosts' rustle softly.</p>
	<p>'Sally' – Phoebe Hesketh, 1909 – 2005 'She was a dog-rose kind of girl:/ Elusive, scattery as petals'</p>	<p>Both Sally and 'a dog-rose' are wild and not traditionally beautiful.</p>
	<p>'Pigeons' – Richard Kell, 1927 – 'small blue busybodies/ Strutting like fat gentlemen' 'their heads like tiny hammers'</p>	<p>Both pigeons and 'busybodies' walk around looking like they think they're important. Both pigeons and fat gentlemen have big bellies but look quite dignified.</p>
	<p>'The Eagle' – Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1809 – 1892 'And like a thunderbolt he falls'</p>	<p>Both the eagle falling and 'a thunderbolt' are fast and dangerous.</p>
	<p>'The Tyger' – William Blake, 1757 – 1827 'Tyger, tyger burning bright'</p>	<p>Both the tiger and fire are beautiful and powerful, but also difficult to control.</p>