

# Metaphor, Simile, Personification

**metaphor:** language that implies a relationship between two elements:

All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages.

**simile:** makes comparisons of two elements, but ties them together with additional words: *like* or *as*.

The torn edges of the ancient book shone yellow *as* an autumn moon.

**personification:** a figure of speech giving an inanimate object or abstract idea human characteristics.

Death sat in the corner thoughtfully smoking his pipe, staring at the young men and women in the pub.

## *Metaphors*

Sylvia Plath

I'm a riddle in nine syllables,  
An elephant, a ponderous house,  
A melon strolling on two tendrils.  
O red fruit, ivory, fine timbers!  
This loaf's big with its yeasty rising.  
Money's new-minted in this fat purse.  
I'm a means, a stage, a cow in calf.  
I've eaten a bag of green apples,  
Boarded the train there's no getting off.

# Additional Terms

Throughout the course we will discuss these elements — be sure you are familiar with their meaning and function.

- 1. antagonist:** a person who the protagonist struggles against, or competes with; an adversary.
- 2. climax:** the heightened tension of conflict at its peak and results in the **conclusion/resolution.**
- 3. conflict:** clash of opposing views, needs, actions
- 4. drama:** main focal point of conflict in story
- 5. epiphany:** moment of clarity, sudden understanding, insight
- 6. exposition:** establishment of the setting, prepares the fictional world for the reader.
- 7. flashback:** a scene relived in memory
- 8. foreshadowing:** hints of a future development through elements of the story
- 9. *in medias res*:** latin phrase meaning “in the middle of”, beginning the action of a story with the unfolding situation already in progress.
- 10. irony:** an event deliberately contrary to what the reader expects.  
Additionally **dramatic irony:** the reader knows something the character does not; the protagonists’ actions have significant meaning only known to the reader.
- 11. motifs:** reoccurring symbols which appear throughout the story
- 12. plot:** main course of action; in addition **subplots** are minor, secondary story lines behind the scene of main action
- 13. protagonist:** main character in story; focal point of the story
- 14. setting:** the landscape of the story