

# Metaphor, Simile, Personification

## *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.

Plath, Sylvia. *The Collected Poems*. Ted Hughes, ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1981.

**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.