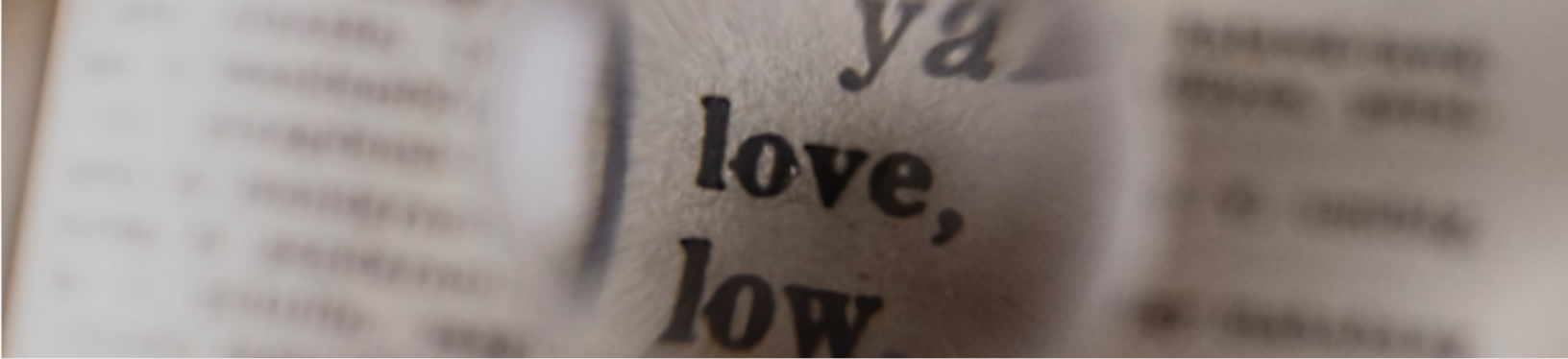




Craft A Vivid Word Machine!

 Language Arts •  30 min •  Ages 9-11 • Grade 5

This lesson challenges you to build your own 'Vivid Word Machine' using everyday materials. You'll learn to craft imaginative similes and metaphors to describe the world around you, turning ordinary words into extraordinary paintings.

Our goal is for your child to Define and identify similes and metaphors in written and spoken language., Create original similes and metaphors using a combination of words and concepts., Explain how figurative language enhances descriptive writing and communication..

What You Need

Paper • Pen/Pencil • Scissors



Scan To Tailor

Every child learns differently, and this is just the baseline. Scan to jump into the app and easily tailor this lesson to match your child's exact learning level and see how Mai will guide this lesson.



Ready for more adventures? Explore our **Sparks Hub** in the app

Lesson Blueprint

A simple, hands-on lesson that guides your child through curiosity, exploration, and reflection.



Mai's Tips

1. **If the child struggles to come up with comparison ideas for their cards, suggest looking around the room for inspiration or thinking about different categories like animals, foods, weather, or emotions:** If the child struggles to come up with comparison ideas for their cards, suggest looking around the room for inspiration or thinking about different categories like animals, foods, weather, or emotions.
 2. **Encourage silly or outlandish comparisons during the activity; sometimes the most unexpected connections are the most creative and lead to a deeper understanding of figurative language:** Encourage silly or outlandish comparisons during the activity; sometimes the most unexpected connections are the most creative and lead to a deeper understanding of figurative language.
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Prep Before Session

1. Gather the materials and choose a safe, comfortable place for the activity.
2. Read through the lesson once so you know where the child will make predictions, test ideas, and reflect.



1 Introduction 5 Min

1. Start by setting a curious tone for the lesson. Encourage your child to think about stories or songs where words create strong mental images. Listen to their ideas without judgment, encouraging any thoughts about what makes a description vivid or memorable.
2. Ask them: "What makes a description really stand out and grab your imagination?"
3. Done when: Your child shares an idea about vivid descriptions.



Done when: Student offers an idea about what makes a description vivid or engaging.



2 Explore & Plan 8 Min

1. Introduce two key word-painting tools: similes and metaphors.

2. A simile is a comparison between two unlike things using the words 'like' or 'as'. For example: 'The cloud was **like** a fluffy sheep.' It helps us imagine things more clearly.
3. A metaphor is a direct comparison, saying one thing **is** another, without 'like' or 'as'. For example: 'The cloud **was** a fluffy sheep.' This creates a stronger, more imaginative image.
4. Now, guide your child to plan for making word cards. Help them think about two categories for the cards: 'things to describe' (like wind, laughter) and 'things to compare them to' (like a wolf, music).
5. Ask them: "How could we use paper, scissors, and a pencil to make cards with different kinds of words or ideas on them for our machine?" Then, "How could we sort those ideas into two main groups?"
6. Done when: Your child clearly explains how they will create and categorize their word cards.



Done when: Student has a clear plan for how to create their word cards for the activity.



3

Discussion 6 Min

1. Before starting the hands-on activity, discuss why these 'word paintings' are powerful. Encourage your child to think deeply about the effect of figurative language.

2. Ask them: "Why do you think writers use similes and metaphors instead of just saying 'the cloud was white'?"
3. Then, "What feeling or image does 'The cloud was a fluffy sheep' give you that 'The cloud was white' doesn't?"
4. Finally, "How do these comparisons make writing more interesting or easier to imagine?"
5. Done when: Your child can explain how similes and metaphors make descriptions more vivid or engaging.

 **Done when:** Student can explain in their own words how similes and metaphors make descriptions more vivid or interesting.



Activity 9 Min

1. It's time to build the 'Vivid Word Machine'! Gather the paper, pen/pencil, and scissors. Supervise closely during the cutting.
2. 1. Cut the paper into at least 10-12 small cards, about the size of an index card.
3. 2. On half of the cards (5-6), write different **things to describe** (e.g., 'the wind', 'a loud laugh', 'my sleepy cat').
4. 3. On the other half (5-6), write **different things to compare them to** (e.g., 'a roaring lion', 'a soft blanket', 'a hidden secret').

5. 4. Create two separate piles: 'Things to Describe' and 'Comparison Elements'.
6. 5. Have your child draw one card from each pile and craft a simile or a metaphor using those two words. Encourage creativity, even if the comparisons are silly!
7. 6. Repeat this process to make at least three super creative and vivid comparisons.
8. Done when: Your child has successfully created at least three original similes or metaphors using their cards.

 **Done when:** Student has successfully created at least three original similes or metaphors using their 'Vivid Word Machine' cards.



5 Summary 2 Min

1. Celebrate your child's creative work! Ask them to reflect on the activity and their new understanding of figurative language. Listen for their favorite comparisons and how they might use this skill.
2. Ask them: "How did it feel to connect such different ideas with similes and metaphors?"
3. Then, "When you hear or read a simile or metaphor now, do you think you'll notice it more?"

4. Finally, "How might you use this skill in your everyday life, maybe in a story you write or even just explaining something to a friend?"
5. Done when: Your child shares a key takeaway from the lesson or their favorite created simile/metaphor.

 **Done when:** Student shares one key takeaway from the lesson or their favorite created simile/metaphor.

Beyond The Lesson

Fuel their curiosity beyond the lesson with bonus sparks.

Table Talk



Authors, poets, and even advertisers use similes and metaphors to make their messages memorable and impactful in the real world.

Did You Know?



Everyday objects can reveal surprising science when we slow down and observe them.

Challenge



Can you use your 'Vivid Word Machine' to describe a *feeling* like happiness or sadness, or even a *sound* like rain or a siren, in a way no one has ever heard before?

★ Quick Recap Quiz 4 Min

Check what your young scientist remembers. Each question includes a Parent Tip to help them find the answer without giving it away.

1. What Is A Simile?

- ☐ It states one thing **is** another thing.
- ☒ It compares two unlike things using 'like' or 'as'.

 A simile always uses 'like' or 'as' to compare.

2. 'The Wind Was A Howling Wolf' Is An Example Of What?

- ☐ A simile
- ☒ A metaphor

 This comparison says the wind **is** the wolf, making it a metaphor.

3. Which Phrase Uses Figurative Language To Create A Vivid Image?

- ☐ The sun shone brightly.
- ☒ The sun was a giant, fiery eye.

 Figurative language often uses comparisons to create a stronger mental picture.

4. Why Do Writers Use Similes And Metaphors?

- ☐ To make their writing longer.
- ☒ To make their descriptions more interesting and imaginative.

 They make writing more engaging, not just longer.