

The Magic Box

by Kit Wright

I will put in the box
The swish of a silk sari on a summer night,
Fire from the nostrils of a Chinese dragon,
The tip of a tongue touching a tooth.

I will put in the box
A snowman with a rumbling belly,
A sip of the bluest water from Lake Lucerne,
A leaping spark from an electric fish.

I will put into the box
Three violet wishes spoken in Gujarati,
The last joke of an ancient uncle,
And the first smile of a baby.

I will put into the box
A fifth season and a black sun,
A cowboy on a broomstick,
And a witch on a white horse.

My box is fashioned from ice and gold and steel,
With stars on the lid and secrets in the corners,
Its hinges are the toe joints of dinosaurs.

I shall surf in my box
On the great high-rolling breakers of the wild
Atlantic,
Then wash ashore on a yellow beach,
The colour of the sun.

The Magic Box - Figurative Language

When looking at language in a text:

- Skim and scan to find the word or phrase on the text
- Read the word or phrase carefully in the context of the sentence or paragraph
- What is the author trying to say in this context?
- What is the author trying to achieve by using this technique?

Simile - used to make a direct comparison. It is usually in a phrase that contains the words 'as' or 'like'.

Example:

- Slithering on the floor like a snake.
- It's as red as a rosy apple.

Metaphor - is also a comparison. However, it states one thing is another thing.

Example:

- The shark's teeth are white daggers.
- The sun's rays are golden waves.

Answer these.

1. Which line in this new verse contains a simile?

I will put in the box
The rumble of thunder on a stormy night,
Fine blades of grass as green as an ogre,
The tip of a fin from a fearsome great shark.

2. Which line in this verse contains a metaphor?

I will put in the box
A 13th month and an extra weekend,
A moon which is a blue balloon,
A glorious lion with a curly mane.

3. Which line is a metaphor and which is a simile?

I shall race in my box
Across the ocean as still as a statue,
Twisting and turning, my box is a top
At a million miles per hour.

4. Fill in the chart below. Tick which is a Simile or Metaphor.

Sentence	Simile/Metaphor
I wandered like a lonely cloud in the sky.	
His eyes were as blue as sapphires.	
The wind is a howling wolf.	
The ballerina is a swan.	
The tiger's growl rumbles like thunder.	

5. Choose a favourite animal. Write a simile and a metaphor to describe its appearance, how it moves or how it sounds.

Extension: Draw a picture of your examples of similes and metaphors. Have you described them like you wanted?

Challenge: Can you write sentences using your onomatopoeia, alliteration, simile and metaphor skills? Draw a picture, show me!