

Worksheet 2

Burns & Metaphor

Writers and poets like Robert Burns use many different types of *description* to get their message across to the reader and to make their writing more interesting and vivid. One of these types of description, found in many of Burns' poems, is called *metaphor*.

A *metaphor* is a way of describing something by comparing it to something else. For example: "It's raining cats and dogs" and "You're a star!" are *metaphors*.

When we use these phrases we don't mean there are really pets falling from the clouds or that the person we're talking to is twinkling in the night sky. We are just describing how heavy the rain is or how brilliant a person is by comparing them to heavy animals or shining stars—we are using *metaphor*.

A *simile* is a special type of *metaphor* which uses the word "like" or the word "as." For example: "The girl was as fierce as a tiger" and "The boy ran like the wind" are similes. The girl isn't really a tiger and the boy isn't really the wind but the *similes* describe the boy and the girl by comparing them to these things, using the words "like" and "as."

Below are some examples of Robert Burns' similes, but some of the words are missing! Can you guess the missing words to complete the similes?

- a) O my **Luve**'s like a red, red _____.
- b) O my **Luve**'s like the _____ that's sweetly played in tune.
- c) Pleasures are like _____.
- d) Your **hurdies** like a distant _____.
- e) Tearing my nerves **wi'** bitter **pang**, like _____.
- f) **Ye** set your nose out as plump **an'** gray as **onie** _____.
- g) Each bristled hair stood like a stake _____.
- h) **Leezie** was as **cantie** as a _____.



Glossary

luve | love
hurdies | buttocks
wi' | with
pang | pain
ye | you

an' | and
onie | any
Leezie | Lizzy
cantie | lively