

Exercise walk-through

2.5

The function of a simile

AP English Literature and Composition

The transfer only runs one way

Practice sentence — a simile

“My memory is like a house with rooms I avoid.

- 1 Main subject** Memory: the thing being described.
- 2 Comparison subject** A house: the source of the transferred qualities.
- 3 Transferred quality** The added rooms and avoidance suggest restricted access to the past. “Like alone does not supply that interpretation.

The transfer only runs one way, in detail

Simile and metaphor have the same parts



WHICH quality? The text decides - not the dictionary.

shelter? · confinement? · something one must live inside?
the practice poem has "locked rooms" - so: restricted access

Build the interpretation: main subject + comparison
subject + the quality transferred.

A **simile** likens two different things with **like** or **as**, to transfer the qualities of one onto the other.

The Function of a Simile

Your turn — compare the wording

Compare “My memory is like a house with rooms I avoid with “My memory is like a house whose windows welcome the sun. Name the two subjects, then explain how the surrounding words change the transferred quality.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Define a simile.

[2]

2.2 State the function of a simile and name the two subjects.

[3]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Define a simile.

[2]

2.1

- a comparison using “like” or “as” to liken two objects or concepts to each other
-

2.2 State the function of a simile and name the two subjects.

[3]

2.2

- it transfers the traits or qualities of one to the other; the main subject is the thing being compared and the comparison subject is the thing it is compared to

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Identifying a simile is not analysis.

(a) State what an analysis must add.

[2]

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Identifying a simile is not analysis.

(a) State what an analysis must add.

[2]

(a)

- which quality is transferred and what effect the transfer has on the reader

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Identifying a simile is not analysis.

(b) Give the form of an answer.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Identifying a simile is not analysis.

(b) Give the form of an answer.

[1]

(b)

- “the comparison subject is X, whose quality of Y is transferred to the main subject Z”

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 In “her voice was like gravel”, the comparison subject is

[1]

☐

A her voice

B gravel

C the reader

D the poem

3.2 A simile transfers

[1]

☐

A traits or qualities

B page numbers

C rhyme

D metre

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 In “her voice was like gravel”, the comparison subject is

[1]

☐

- A her voice
- B gravel
- C the reader
- D the poem

3.1 B

- gravel is what the voice is compared to

3.2 A simile transfers

[1]

☐

- A traits or qualities
- B page numbers
- C rhyme
- D metre

3.2 A

- traits or qualities

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A poem likens a city to a furnace.

(a) Name the two subjects.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A poem likens a city to a furnace.

(a) Name the two subjects.

[1]

(a)

- the city is the main subject and the furnace the comparison subject

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A poem likens a city to a furnace.

(b) Explain what quality is transferred and to what effect.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A poem likens a city to a furnace.

(b) Explain what quality is transferred and to what effect.

[2]

(b)

- heat and containment transfer, so the city reads as something that consumes what it holds