

Exercise walk-through

The function of a metaphor ■ 2.6

eXercise

You must be able to

- define a metaphor in the CED's terms
- state what the differences between the two concepts may do
- state what a comparison draws on
- explain how context determines what is transferred

Method — Definition

A metaphor implies similarities between two (usually unrelated) concepts or objects in order to reveal or emphasise one or more things about one of them, though the differences between the two may also be revealing. The last clause is the advanced move.

Method — Differences

Where a simile transfers qualities, a metaphor's *unlikeness* can also mean something: the ways a city is **not** a furnace may be the point.

Method — What it draws on

Comparisons between objects or concepts draw on the experiences and associations readers already have with those objects and concepts. The reader supplies half the meaning.

Method — Context

Interpretation of a metaphor may depend on the context of its use; what is happening in a text may determine what is transferred. The same metaphor transfers different qualities in different places.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define a metaphor in the CED's terms.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

it implies similarities between two usually unrelated concepts or objects **B1** to reveal or emphasise something about one of them **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State what a comparison draws on.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

the experiences and associations readers already have **B1** with those objects and concepts **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Context matters to a metaphor.

- (a) State the CED's claim.
- (b) State what the differences between the two concepts may do.

Solution 2.3

Method: Definition

Worked steps

(a) interpretation may depend on the context of its use, since what is happening in a text may determine what is transferred **B2**. (b) the differences may also be revealing **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The CED says a metaphor implies similarities between two

- A** usually unrelated concepts or objects
- B** identical objects
- C** synonyms
- D** rhyming words

Solution 3.1

Method: Definition

A usually unrelated concepts or objects



B identical objects

C synonyms

D rhyming words

Worked steps

A. usually unrelated.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A reader's existing associations are

- A** irrelevant
- B** part of what the comparison draws on
- C** always wrong
- D** the author's

Solution 3.2

Method: What it draws on

- A irrelevant
- B part of what the comparison draws on 
- C always wrong
- D the author's

Worked steps

- B. the reader supplies half the meaning.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

The same metaphor appears in two poems and means different things.

- (a) State the CED's explanation.
- (b) Explain what this requires of an analysis.

Solution 3.3

Method: Context

Worked steps

(a) context determines what is transferred **B1**. (b) the analysis must show what is happening in the text at that point **B1** rather than giving the metaphor a fixed meaning **B1**.