

5.5 The function of a metaphor

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS extended metaphor 延伸隐喻

Objective

Build the skills to explain an **extended metaphor** 延伸隐喻.

You must be able to:

- state what metaphorical comparisons focus on
- state the two things comparisons communicate
- define an extended metaphor and how it is expanded
- explain why context governs the transfer

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The focus

Metaphorical comparisons do not focus solely on the objects being compared; they focus on the particular traits, qualities, or characteristics of the things being compared. The trait is the point.

■ Two communications

Comparisons not only communicate literal meaning but may also convey figurative meaning or transmit a perspective.

■ Extended metaphor

Created when the comparison of a main subject and comparison subject persists through parts of or an entire text, and when the comparison is expanded through additional details, similes, and images.

■ Context

Interpretation of an extended metaphor may depend on the context of its use; what is happening in a text may determine what is transferred. As an extended metaphor develops, the trait transferred can change.

2 Practice

2.1 State what metaphorical comparisons focus on. [2]

2.2 Define an extended metaphor. [2]

2.3 Context governs the transfer.

(a) State the CED's claim. [2]

(b) State how an extended metaphor is expanded. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Metaphorical comparisons focus on [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A the objects alone
B the traits, qualities or characteristics compared
C the poem's date
D the rhyme

3.2 An extended metaphor is expanded through additional details, similes and [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A images
B footnotes
C titles
D stanzas only

3.3 A metaphor of a voyage runs through a whole poem and its meaning shifts near the end.

(a) State what the CED says about this. [1]

(b) Explain how an analysis handles the shift. [2]
