

7.10 The function of a simile

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS selection 选择

Objective

Build the skills to explain a simile's **selection** 选择.

You must be able to:

- state what a simile's function relies on
- explain why the choice of comparison subject matters
- compare two similes for the same main subject
- analyse a simile by its selection

1 Worked examples

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

■ The claim

The function of a simile relies on the selection of the objects being compared as well as the traits of the objects. Selection is added here to unit 2's account.

■ Why choice matters

A face like marble and a face like paper both mean pale, and they mean nothing else in common. The writer chose one, and the discarded alternatives are the measure of what the chosen one does.

■ Comparing similes

Test a simile by substituting another comparison subject with the same core trait. What changes is what the original was for.

■ Analysing by selection

"The comparison could have been X; it is Y instead, which adds Z." That sentence is an analysis of selection, and it is more precise than naming the shared trait alone.

2 Practice

2.1 State what a simile’s function relies on. [2]

2.2 Explain why the choice of comparison subject matters. [2]

2.3 A simile can be tested by substitution.

(a) State the method. [2]

(b) Give the form of an analysis of selection. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A simile’s function relies on selection of the objects and [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** the traits of the objects
B the page number
C the poem’s date
D the reader’s age

3.2 “Like marble” and “like paper” share [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** paleness and little else
B everything
C nothing
D their sound

3.3 A writer describes grief as “like a debt”.

(a) State the trait transferred. [1]

(b) Explain what “like a wound” would have done instead. [2]
