



# **SIMILE SHENANIGANS**

A game of creating, sharing, and discovering  
similes and metaphors

- ❖ This game is recommended for Level B and C students (11 years old and up).
- ❖ It is a fun game of creating and sharing similes and metaphors that will provide hours of inspiration from famous authors of children’s literature.
- ❖ If you don’t have hours in the classroom to play, don’t worry. Play for 10–20 minutes in class a few times. Then, encourage parents to download the game and continue playing with their children at home.

# SIMILE SHENANIGANS

## TO PREPARE

- ❖ Print, *in color*, the cards on the following pages (card stock is preferred). Cut them out. Place them face down in a stack. In a class, you probably won't even use an entire page of cards per game, so you don't have to print all the pages at once. Choose a page you like, or print several and choose individual cards for a variety of difficulty levels.

Cards are color-coded:

- **red border = the easiest**
- **the blue border = medium difficulty**
- **purple border = the most difficult**

If you do not copy the game in color, you may wish to label each card with its difficulty level.

Note: The last page of cards is blank so teachers and students may add their own similes from the literature they are reading.

- ❖ If you are playing with a small group at home, make a “pocket” in which you can place a card so that the bottom edge with the answer is covered. The simplest way to do this is to simply cut off the side of an envelope. The side fold will become the bottom of the pocket.
- ❖ Choose one person to be the reader. In a class this will be the teacher. In other settings, players take turns being the reader each round. (Note: If a student supplies a simile, he must be the reader when it is used.)
- ❖ **IMPORTANT:** In a class, divide the players into 3–5 teams.
- ❖ Give each player (or team), including the reader, a pencil and 3x5 note cards, one for each round you will play.

## TO PLAY

- ❖ The reader picks up the first card and reads the beginning of the simile in the white box. He looks at the author's answer (at bottom), but does not reveal it. Then he places the card in the pocket so that players can see the white box but not the answer box.

(In a class, the teacher should instead write the beginning of the simile—the white box—on a whiteboard.)

## Simile Shenanigans

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- ❖ Teams try to finish the simile by writing their idea on a note card. The reader writes the author's answer (from the blue box) on his note card.
- ❖ Everyone passes their cards to the reader, who then shuffles and reads all the possible answers. (In a class, he/she should write the answers on the whiteboard.)
- ❖ If two or more answers are the same, the reader only needs to write that answer on the board once, but reading them all is helpful for players to see how popular that answer is.
- ❖ Be sure no one reveals which answers were provided by whom.
- ❖ Now each player or team (except the reader) must try to guess which of the possible answers is the one the author actually wrote. The reader must keep track of who guesses which. (Write initials or team names by the answers on the board.)
- ❖ After everyone has guessed, points are awarded as follows:

\*Players/teams who guessed the **correct answer** from the choices on the board **receive 1 point**.

\*Players receive **2 points for each time someone else guessed the answer they provided**.

\*If players/teams actually **wrote the correct answer on their card, they receive 3 points** in addition to points they may have received from the above.

## SCORE SHEETS

To make score keeping simpler, blank score sheets that you may copy for each team are on the following page. For each game, each team will need its own score sheet. It includes enough space for nine rounds, but in a class setting, you will most likely not have enough time to play all nine.

## Simile Shenanigans

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### SCORE SHEET

Team: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Round</b>	<b>If you guessed the correct answer— 1 point</b>	<b>Number of teams that chose your answer— 2 points <u>each</u></b>	<b>If you wrote the correct answer on your card— 3 points</b>	<b>Total for each round</b>
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				

Grand Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

### SCORE SHEET

Team: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Round</b>	<b>If you guessed the correct answer— 1 point</b>	<b>Number of teams that chose your answer— 2 points <u>each</u></b>	<b>If you wrote the correct answer on your card— 3 points</b>	<b>Total for each round</b>
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				

Grand Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

*Pagoo*

“Around the rock  
grew a ruffle of algae  
like...”

a fancy collar

*Where the Red Fern Grows*

“I could see that  
Rainie was paralyzed  
with fright. His  
mouth and eyes  
were opened wide,  
and his face was  
white as...”

chalk

*Sing Down the Moon*

“Who wants a girl  
who has arms that  
look like...”

sticks

*Where the Red Fern Grows*

“With eyes as big as  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
I looked and listened.”

a hoot owl's

*Adam of the Road*

“The carriage itself  
was shaped like...”

an enormous sausage

*Paddle to the Sea*

“Fire roared like...”

a hurricane

*Pagoo*

“The barnacle looked  
like...”



an Indian teepee

*Pagoo*

“Sand and mud  
swirled like...”

cigar smoke

*Call It Couraae*

“There was a wave  
lifting before the  
canoe. Many the boy  
had seen, but this  
was a...”

monster

*Pagoo*

“Jellyfish tentacles strike like...”

snakes

*Old Yeller*

“A flash of yellow came streaking out of the brush. It was that big yeller dog. He was roaring like...”

a mad bull

*Night*

“From the first hours of dawn, a glacial wind lashed at us like...”

a whip

*Night*

“News spread through Sighet [the city] like...”

a wildfire

*Tom Sawyer*

“[Mud clods] raged past Sid like...”

a hailstorm

*The Captive Bride*

“He spent days watching the sailors scamper like \_\_\_\_\_ up the shrouds.”

monkeys

*Journey to the Center of the Earth*

“My legs gave way like those of a...”

drunken man

*Alice in Wonderland*

“There was not a moment to be lost. Away went Alice like...”

the wind

*Where the Red Fern Grows*

“My face was as red as...”

a fox's tail

*Alice in Wonderland*

“All I know is something comes at me like...”

a jack-in-the-box

*Island of the Blue Dolphins*

“I remember the day the Aleut ship came to our island. At first it seemed like...”

a small shell afloat on the sea

*Call It Courage*

“The lagoon was untroubled as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
Upon its black face the stars lay tracks of fire.”

mirror

*Old Yeller*

“One time he brought home a horned toad that got so mad he swelled out round and flat as...”

a Mexican tortilla

*Gone with the Wind*

“the sun so bright on his blond hair that it seemed like...”

a cap of shining silver

*Paddle to the Sea*

“From Lake Superior northward the evergreen trees wore...”

hoods and coats of white

*Anne of Green Gables*

“In the stainless southwest sky, a great crystal white star was shining like ...”

a lamp of guidance

*Alice in Wonderland*

“It was opened by another footman in the livery, with a round face, and large eyes like...”

a frog

*The Trumpet of the Swan*

“The mist rises slowly like...”

steam from a kettle

*Cricket in Times Square*

“Circles of silence moved through the crowd like...”

ripples in a pond

*Johnny Tremain*

“The music, small as \_\_\_\_\_,  
filled that silence.”

the chirping of a cricket

*Rascal*

“Porcupines can’t throw their quills. These barbed harpoons, however, ...stay in the flesh of enemies like...”

fishhooks

*The Bible*

“The angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like...”

lightning

*The Big Wave*

“The ground was covered with deep green moss... Everyday gardeners swept the moss with bamboo brooms until it was like...”

a velvet carpet

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

“His boot toes were turned sharply up, like...”

sleigh runners

*Marlfox*

“Her voice was that of a true Marlfox, sweet as honey and deadly as...”

an adder’s bite

*Call It Courage*

“Silence gripped them, and a chill of awe touched them like...”

a cold hand

*Call It Courage*

“The cords that held the mast hummed like...”

plucked wires



*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

“In an instant the boys were rolling and tumbling in the dirt, gripped together like...”

cats

*Pagoo*

“He [the hermit crab] bonged about in his roomy barnacle like...”

a clapper in a bell

*A Farewell to Arms*

“There was fighting in the mountains and at night we could see flashes from the artillery. In the dark it was like...”

lightning

*Marlfox*

“The Marlfox giggled like...”

a youngster

*The Big Wave*

“Death is the great...”

gateway

*Little Women*

“All sorts of pleasant things happened about that time, for the new friendship flourished like...”

grass in spring

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

“The boy remained dismal as...”

a hearse

*The Yearling*

“The young quail, each no bigger than the end of a thumb, scattered like...”

small windblown leaves

*Peter Pan*

“The unhappy Hook was as impotent as he was damp, and he fell forward like...”

a cut flower

*Call of the Wild*

"Thorton's  
commands cracked  
out like a ...

pistol shot

*Call of the Wild*

"Here the gold  
showed like yellow  
\_\_\_\_\_ across  
the bottom of the  
pan."

butter

*Mara, Daughter of the Nile*

"We looked at the  
black \_\_\_\_\_  
of the alleys."

mouths

*Pictures of Hollis Woods*

"The trees were  
\_\_\_\_\_  
against the iron-gray  
sky."

charcoal smudges

*The Fugitive King*

"Like \_\_\_\_\_,  
David's men melted  
into the surrounding  
hills."

ghosts

*Forest of Secrets*

"Cold gripped the  
forest...like..."

an icy claw

*Immanuel's Veins*

"His voice was  
smooth like the..."

purr of a cat

*Where the Long  
Grass Blows*

"He shook his  
head like..."

an old bull

*The Witch of  
Blackbird Pond*

"The cold measured  
words fell like so  
many \_\_\_\_\_  
into the quiet room."

stones

*Marlfox*

“Her world now consisted of a roaring, boiling melee, in which she was as helpless as...”

a leaf in a hurricane

*The Bronze Bow*

Jesus’s “words touched their minds and hearts like...”

some healing ointment

*To Kill a Mockingbird*

“She was horrible... the corners of her mouth glistened with wet, which inched like \_\_\_\_\_ down the deep grooves enclosing her chin.”

a glacier

*The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*

“She entered with ungainly struggle like...”

some awkward chicken

*Old Yeller*

The bull “had one great horn set for hooking, while the other hung down past his jaw like...”

a...candle that had drooped in the heat

*Pagoo*

“Pagoo’s shell was tossed over the brim [of the rock on the seashore] like...”

a tiny canoe in vast Niagara Falls

*I Promise*

“The light from the sun broke through the mist like...”

thin streamers made of silver glitter

*Little Women*

“She tried to get rid of the kitten which had scrambled up her back and stuck like...”

a burr just out of reach

*The Yearling*

“Drops of silver slipping from the [water] wheel blurred together like...”

the tail of a shooting star

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

“His hair was long and tangled and greasy, and you could see his eyes shining through like...”

he was behind vines

*The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*

“Holmes looked at him thoughtfully like...”

a master chess player

*Rascal*

“On the horizon there were flashes of distant lightning and a low rumble of thunder, sounding like...”

artillery many miles away

*Alice in Wonderland*

“Oh, how I wish I could shut up like...”

[Note: *shut up* as in to shrink]

a telescope

*Anne of Green Gables*

“The cake did rise, however, and came out of the oven as light and feathery as ...”

golden foam

*Night*

“From the depths of the mirror,

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was contemplating me.” [after being in a concentration camp]

a corpse

*The Yearling*

“The water made a sound like...”

kittens lapping

