

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Metaphors: Understanding Comparisons

Remember that a **metaphor** compares two things that are not alike by saying that one thing is the other.

Example: My brother is a pirate because he takes my things without asking.  
The weather is pea soup today.

**Metaphors** can help to paint a clearer picture of what the author is trying to say.

Example: If my brother is a pirate, he steals things that don't belong to him.  
If the weather is pea soup, it means that it is foggy and rainy.

It is important to understand **metaphors** so that you can understand what the author is trying to say.

#### Exercise:

**Read each metaphor. Explain the comparison in your own words.**

1. Lisa is an innocent lamb when it comes to playing mean tricks on other people.

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2. Coach Jordan is our tower of strength when we face a difficult game.

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3. My backpack was a bag of rocks weighing me down on the way to school.

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4. You are my sunshine—you make me happy when skies are gray.

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5. The road to Mark's house was such a maze that my mom finally gave up and called for directions.

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6. The swim meet was a piece of cake because we had trained hard.

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### ANSWERS--Metaphors: Understanding Comparisons

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Example: My brother is a pirate because he takes my things without asking.  
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It is important to understand **metaphors** so that you can understand what the author is trying to say.

#### Exercise:

**Read each metaphor. Explain the comparison in your own words.**

1. Lisa is an innocent lamb when it comes to playing mean tricks on other people.

*Lisa is not mean and she doesn't understand how to play mean tricks. She is like a lamb—young and innocent.*

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2. Coach Jordan is our tower of strength when we face a difficult game.

*Coach Jordan is tall and solid, so when the team is afraid of a difficult game, they find strength in him.*

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3. My backpack was a bag of rocks weighing me down on the way to school.

*The backpack was heavy—and maybe the books inside are like rocks.*

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4. You are my sunshine—you make me happy when skies are gray.

*The person is cheerful and bright—bringing happiness on a gloomy day just like the sunshine.*

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5. The road to Mark's house was such a maze that my mom finally gave up and called for directions.

*The road was curvy with turns and twists. It was easy to get lost.*

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6. The swim meet was a piece of cake because we had trained hard.

*The swim meet was easy—like eating a piece of cake is pleasing and not hard to do!*

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