



COMPARING TEXTS

Metaphor

A Simile



UNIT 3 What We Keep Poetry Connection

A STEM school

FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Home of the Space Generation



SPEAK YOUR MIND

Relationships are a necessary part of life.

They can be wonderful. They can also be awful.

Do you have any tense or uncomfortable relationships?

What figurative language would you use to describe your attitude toward these relationships?

Take a minute to react and explain your response in the notebook.



Eve Merriam was so fascinated with language that she felt she had to become a poet. Her love of language is reflected in the hundreds of poems she wrote. While many of her poems explore how poetry works, she also wrote poems on social issues such as pollution, war, sexism, and television addiction. “Whatever you do, find ways to read poetry,” Merriam urged. “Eat it, drink it, enjoy it, and share it.”

N. Scott Momaday has spent his life teaching and writing about native American folklore, history, and mythology. Proud of his native American heritage, the author grew up on Kiowa, Navajo, Apache, and Pueblo Indian reservations. In 1969 he won the Pulitzer Prize for his novel *House Made of Dawn*, which tells the story of a young native American torn between his ancestral roots and mainstream society.



Metaphor



In “Metaphor,” Eve Merriam uses a metaphor to explore the idea that every day offers the reader the opportunity to act, speak, and live in ways he or she finds fulfilling. “Metaphor” was first published in *A Sky Full of Poems* (1986).

A Simile



In “A Simile,” N. Scott Momaday uses a simile to explore what can happen to body language when people become tense because they aren’t getting along well. “A Simile” has been published in a number of Native American anthologies, including *Carriers of the Dream* (1975).

LITERARY ELEMENTS



Speaker

Is the character who speaks in, or narrates, a poem. While you read, think about the speaker in each poem. Is the author writing as herself, or as someone else?

Tone

Is the emotional attitude toward the reader or toward the subject implied by a literary work. What techniques does each author use to achieve the tone?

Figurative language

Is writing or speech meant to be understood imaginatively instead of literally. Simile and metaphor are two examples of figurative language. A **simile** is a comparison using like or as. In a **metaphor**, one thing is spoken of or written about as if it were another. Similes and metaphors encourage you to make comparisons between two things. The writer's actual subject is called **the tenor**, and the thing to which the subject is likened is called **the vehicle**. As you read, note how the two poems use figurative language in their titles.

READING STRATEGY

Meaning of Words

Brainstorming words is also called wordstorming. When you wordstorm, your goal is to think of as many words as you can related to a particular topic. In a two-column chart, list words from the poems that are associated with the following topics: “Conflicts and arguments” and “Forgiving or being forgiven.” Add other words related to each topic.

Topic 1	Topic 2
Conflicts and arguments	Forgiving or being forgiven

ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 232 - 235 in your book, complete these activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Figurative Language** - These poems both use figurative language in different ways. What other features of these poems are similar? How are they different? Try rewriting "Metaphor" using a simile, and "A Simile" using a metaphor.



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