

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Simile and Metaphor

Willow and Ginkgo By Eve Merriam

The willow is like an etching,
Fine-lined against the sky.
The ginkgo is like a crude sketch,
Hardly worthy to be signed.

The willow's music is like a soprano,
Delicate and thin.
The ginkgo's tune is like a chorus
With everyone joining in.

The willow is sleek as a velvet-nosed calf;
The ginkgo is leathery as an old bull.
The willow's branches are like silken thread;
The ginkgo's like stubby rough wool.

The willow is like a nymph with streaming hair;
Wherever it grows, there is green and gold and fair.
The willow dips to the water,
Protected and precious, like the king's favorite daughter.

The ginkgo forces its way through gray concrete;
Like a city child, it grows up in the street.
Thrust against the metal sky,
Somehow it survives and even thrives.
My eyes feast upon the willow,
But my heart goes to the ginkgo.

ginkgo A deciduous tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) native to China and having fan-shaped leaves and fleshy yellowish seeds with a disagreeable odor. The male plants are often grown as ornamental street trees. Also called maidenhair tree.

Willow Any of various deciduous trees or shrubs of the genus *Salix*, having usually narrow leaves, unisexual flowers borne in catkins, and strong lightweight wood.

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1. Underline the similes in the poem: Draw an arrow between the items compared.
2. Make a chart of the nouns and other words used to compare each tree

Tree	Characteristics
Tree 1:	
Tree 2:	

3. What terms from art are used?
4. What terms from music are used?
5. What terms from farming are used?
6. What terms from sewing are used?
7. How is the willow like a princess?
8. How is the ginkgo like a homeless child?
9. How does the definition of each tree help a reader understand the poem better?
10. What is the opinion of the speaker of the poem toward each tree?
11. What is the conclusion of the author in the last stanza?

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THE METAPHOR

Her hair is silk. The sentence is comparing (or stating) that hair is silk.

Take a piece of blank white paper and fold it into fourths. In one block, write a simile and illustrate it. In the block immediately to the right, write the same sentence as a metaphor. Do the same for the other two blocks.

Poetry Worksheet #1

Make a four-column chart with the headings: **Object 1**, **Object 2**, **Type**, and **Meaning**

1. The baby was like an octopus, grabbing at all the cans on the grocery store shelves.
2. As the teacher entered the room she whispered under her breath, "This class is like a slice of coconut pie!"
3. The giant's steps were thunder as he ran toward Jack.
4. The pillow was a cloud when I put my head upon it after a long day.
5. I feel like a limp dishrag.
6. Those girls are like two peas in a pod.
7. The fluorescent light was the sun during our test.
8. No one invites Harold to parties because he's a wet blanket.
9. The bar of soap was a slippery eel during the dog's bath.
10. Ted was as nervous as a cat with a long tail in a room full of rocking chairs.