



Who knows what a marshmallow is? Could you describe what a marshmallow looks like? What does it feel like? How is it made? How do you use a marshmallow? What are your experiences using a marshmallow? How long do you think you could talk about marshmallows? Could you talk for a whole minute? You will have ten seconds to think about a topic that is suggested by a classmate, then one minute to talk. We will time you using the second hand on the wall clock. If you stop talking for more than three seconds, your time will be up. The record keeper will keep track of how long you were able to speak extemporaneously!

Figurative language

Similes and Metaphors

Figurative language creates pictures in the mind of the reader or listener. These pictures help convey the meaning faster and more vividly than words alone. Figurative language is frequently used for humor.

Both similes and metaphors link one thing to another which helps to create a picture in your mind. A simile usually uses "as" or "like." A metaphor is a condensed simile which omits "as" or "like." A metaphor creates a relationship directly and leaves more to the imagination. Example: Your eyes are like the sun. You are my sunshine.

Share the funny similes and metaphors below with your students. Then ask students to invent original similes or metaphors, looking for humorous connections and using the curriculum. For example: *The gold rush was as frantic as a flock of pigeons in the park when bread crumbs are dropped.*

- Her hair glistened in the rain like nose hair after a sneeze.
- She caught your eye like one of those pointy hook latches that used to dangle from screen doors and would fly up whenever you banged the door open again.
- The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.
- Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.
- He was as tall as a six-foot, three-inch tree.
- Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 P.M. traveling at 55 mph, the other from Topeka at 4:19 P.M. at a speed of 35 mph.
- The politician was gone but unnoticed, like the period after the Dr. on a Dr Pepper can.
- Life is like a jigsaw puzzle, but you don't have the picture on the front of the box to know what it's supposed to look like. Sometimes you're not even sure if you have all of the pieces.

The similes listed above were collected by high school English teachers for their own amusement.