

Lesson 18

Figurative Language

 **L.5.5a:** Interpret figurative language, including similes and metaphors, in context.

 **Introduction** Writers use **figurative language**, including similes and metaphors, to help readers imagine what one thing is like by comparing it to something else.

- A **simile** compares two or more things using the words *like* or *as*. The table below contains two sentences with similes. It then explains what those similes mean.

Simile	What It Means
Noah stood as still as a rabbit trying not to be seen.	Noah stood very still.
The world around him was like a beautiful movie.	Noah saw beautiful things happening all around him.

- A **metaphor** compares two or more things *without* using the words *like* or *as*. In the metaphor below, the clouds are compared to sailing ships.

Metaphor	What It Means
White clouds were ships sailing across the sky.	The clouds moved like ships across the sky.

Guided Practice

Find the simile or metaphor in each sentence. Underline the two things being compared. Then write the meaning of the simile or metaphor.

HINT After you find the two things being compared, ask yourself: How are they alike? Use your answer to figure out what each simile or metaphor means.

- 1** Sunbeams were golden threads piercing the clouds.
Meaning: _____

- 2** Mountain goats leaped like dancers from rock to rock.
Meaning: _____

- 3** The butterflies drifted as lazily as falling leaves.
Meaning: _____

- 4** Bright flowers were jewels gleaming in the sunlight.
Meaning: _____

Independent Practice

For numbers 1–5, choose the correct meaning of the underlined simile or metaphor.

- 1** The landscape was a patchwork quilt of sights and sounds.
- A** The quilt showed a variety of sights and sounds.
 - B** The quilt had a picture of the landscape on it.
 - C** The landscape had a blanket covering it.
 - D** The landscape had a variety of sights and sounds.
- 2** A waterfall gushed like a faucet down the side of the mountain.
- A** The waterfall was powerful.
 - B** The waterfall was narrow.
 - C** A faucet was on the mountain.
 - D** A faucet made the waterfall.
- 3** The brook gurgled as happily as a well-fed baby.
- A** A baby made pleasant sounds near the brook.
 - B** The brook made a pleasant sound.
 - C** There were many fish in the brook.
 - D** The well-fed baby sounded happy.
- 4** Croaking frogs sounded as loud as a marching band.
- A** The frogs marched as they made croaking sounds.
 - B** The frogs were very musical.
 - C** The frogs croaked very loudly.
 - D** The marching band sounded like loud croaking.
- 5** Noah was a sponge, soaking up the landscape's sights and sounds.
- A** Noah was good at cleaning.
 - B** Noah fell into the water and got soaked.
 - C** Noah was thirsty as he watched and listened.
 - D** Noah looked at and listened to everything.