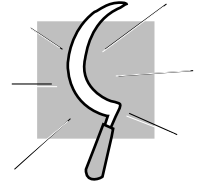


A **simile** is a comparison between two different things, usually with *like* or *as*. It is a clear and open comparison, showing that one thing is similar to another. For example, *The moon is like a sickle*. You have compared the shape of the moon and the sickle. You can carry out your comparison further and compare the shining quality of both. Thus: *The moon is like a shining sickle*. And further yet by comparing color: *The moon is like a shining, silver sickle*.



A **metaphor** is an implied comparison between two such things. It is a suggested similarity. You do not say one thing is like another, as in the simile, but you say one thing is another. They sort of come together. Instead of saying, *The moon is like a sickle*, you say: *The moon is a sickle*. The meaning is the same in both. Metaphor comes from the Greek *meta-* (beyond, after) + *pherein* (to carry). You might think of it as one thing carried beyond itself to another thing and taking its place. You can rewrite your thought by putting the word sickle before moon, using it as an adjective. Thus: The *sickle* moon.



A **personification** is a kind of metaphor in which you take an inanimate thing and treat it like it has a human quality. Thus, while the moon is an inanimate object in the sky, you could treat it as if it were human. For example, you see the moon's reflection in the moving water and ripples of a stream. The moon is rounded, looking something like a face. You compare this to the human face bent down in the water of a basin where water is being moved in the act of washing. You could compose a personification, bringing these different things together: The river flowed by in the darkness. Beneath my feet, I saw the full moon washing its golden-white face in the ripples .

An **alliteration** is the repetition of the same consonant sound in a line or one line following another. Usually, the repetition occurs at the beginning of words, but it may be on an accented syllable. For example the alliteration of the "W" in The west wind rustled the willows...

Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in words close together. Example of the vowel "O": The **golden** field of **oats**, **sown** in the spring.