Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_

Poetic Elements: Metaphors and Similes

Metaphor—a description of one thing as if it were another; a comparison of two seemingly unlike things.

Example: “The sky is a patchwork quilt.”

1. What two things are being compared in the example above? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why would these two things be compared? What does the author want us to see when we think of what the sky looks like?

3. Paraphrase the poem:

Dreams

4. What is the metaphor in the 1st stanza?

Hold fast to dreams

For if dreams die

Life is a broken-winged bird

That cannot fly

Hold fast to dreams

5. What is the metaphor in the 2nd stanza?

For when dreams go

Life is a barren field

Frozen with snow.

--Langston Hughes

6. What is Kino’s dream in *The Pearl*?

7. How does this poem’s message help us understand why Kino can’t let go of the pearl?

Simile—a comparison of two unlike things using *like, as, than,* or *resembles.*

Example: “Her eyes were **like** two pools of deep water.”

8. What two things are being compared in the example above? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ &\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. What is the author trying to say that this person’s eyes look like (other than two pools, of course)?

Crying?

10. Why is the above example considered to be a simile and not a metaphor?

11. Paraphrase the poem:

12. List 3 similes in the poem.

a.

b.

c.

Flint

An emerald is as green as grass,  
A ruby red as blood;  
A sapphire shines as blue as heaven;  
A flint lies in the mud.

A diamond is a brilliant stone,  
To catch the world's desire;  
An opal holds a fiery spark;  
But a flint holds a fire.

--Christina Rossetti

13. Read the following lines from chapter 3 of *The Pearl* and identify the simile.

“Kino’s hand crept into his breast where his knife hung on a string, and then he sprang like an angry cat, leaped striking and spitting for the dark thing he knew was in the corner of the house” (37).

Simile:

14. After having read examples of similes and metaphors in poems and in *The Pearl,* why do you think authors use such devices in their writing?