

Metaphor

A trope

Trope

- an artful deviation, literally a “turn,” from the normal use of a word or phrase to a non-literal one: a substitution of meaning from one word or phrase to another.
- Or more simply, a play on words that uses a word or phrase in a way that is unusual or not literal.

Metaphor

- We might say it's the mother of all tropes.
- It offers a comparison of two seemingly unlike things; referring to one thing as another very different thing to emphasize something surprising that they share.

Simile

- A simile is kind of a weak metaphor
- Simile suggests that something is “like” something else: “Life is like a box of chocolates.”

Metaphor

- Suggests that something is something else.
- Aristotle loved a good metaphor, his favorite trope, because it could turn an abstraction into a vivid and familiar (and emotion-producing) image.

Examples

- Life is a battle.
- Life is a beach.
- Life is a journey.
- Happiness is a warm gun.
- Argument is war.
- Time is money.
- “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances.” (William Shakespeare)

But also...

- That film blew me away!
- I'm feeling up (or down) today.
- Kenneth Burke is the father of modern rhetoric.
- The iPad was Steve Jobs' brainchild.
- That idea died off a long time ago.

Your turn

- Come up with a few of your own examples of metaphors