## THE SIMILE

A simile is a comparison using *like* or *as*. It is used to explain and clarify difficult or unfamiliar objects or ideas by comparing them with something tangible that everyone is familiar with or to encourage readers to see the subject matter in a new way. The two objects being compared are essentially different but strikingly alike in one or more aspects.

A well-know simile comes from a poem by Robert Burns "A red, red rose":

O, my luve is like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June.
O, my luve is like the melodie,
That's sweetly played in tune.

Here's another simile written in free verse:

Confusion
is like
a deck of cards.
The facts are present
but
tend to be shuffled.

Jennifer Hind, "Simile," *The Royal Gazette*, Bermuda, 2003.

Take a pair of words from the lists below, one from each column, and write a simile poem comparing the two words.

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|---|---|---|---|
| prejudice | peppermint | love | lemon |
| hate | hat | joy | jar |
| fear | feathers | hope | handle |
| grief | grass | anxiety | animal |

Now scan through today's edition of *your newspaper* and clip out the picture of an object from a photograph or display ad and paste it in the space below. Brainstorm a number of abstract ideas beginning with the same letter as your object and write them down next to the object. Create a simile poem comparing one of the abstract ideas to the concrete object.