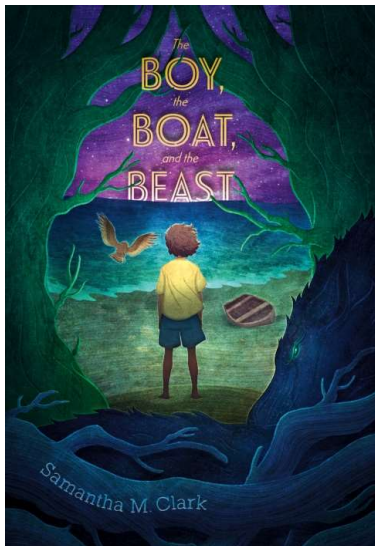


The Boy, The Boat, and The Beast

Creative Writing Activities For Educators



About The Book

Written by **Samantha M Clark**, **THE BOY, THE BOAT, AND THE BEAST** is the story of a boy who wakes up on a mysterious beach where everything's scary and he doesn't know who he is or how he got there. After a bright light shines over the Green Wall of trees, the boy gathers up his courage and follows it, hoping to find answers and his family. But when he discovers the terrifying truth, he must face his biggest fear before he can go home.

"An unforgettable, life-affirming tale." ~ *ABA Booklist*

"Excellent as a mentor text for teaching point of view." ~ *Reading Rumpus*

Minimum Reader Age: 8

Grade Level: 3 and up

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Creative Writing Activities

Author **Samantha M Clark** uses different types of figurative language to tell the story within **THE BOY, THE BOAT, AND THE BEAST**. Below are explanations for some, as well as activities you can try with your class.

Metaphor

Metaphor is where something is described as something else in a creative way. When the boy in **THE BOY, THE BOAT, AND THE BEAST** comes to a giant boulder, instead of saying it's too big to climb over, the book says, "The boulder might as well be a mountain." (Page 51)

You Try...

Think of the characteristics of a friend or family member, or a character in one of your stories, that you want to describe. Perhaps they're short or tall, happy or sad. Next think of things that have the same characteristics, and write them in a sentence as a metaphor.

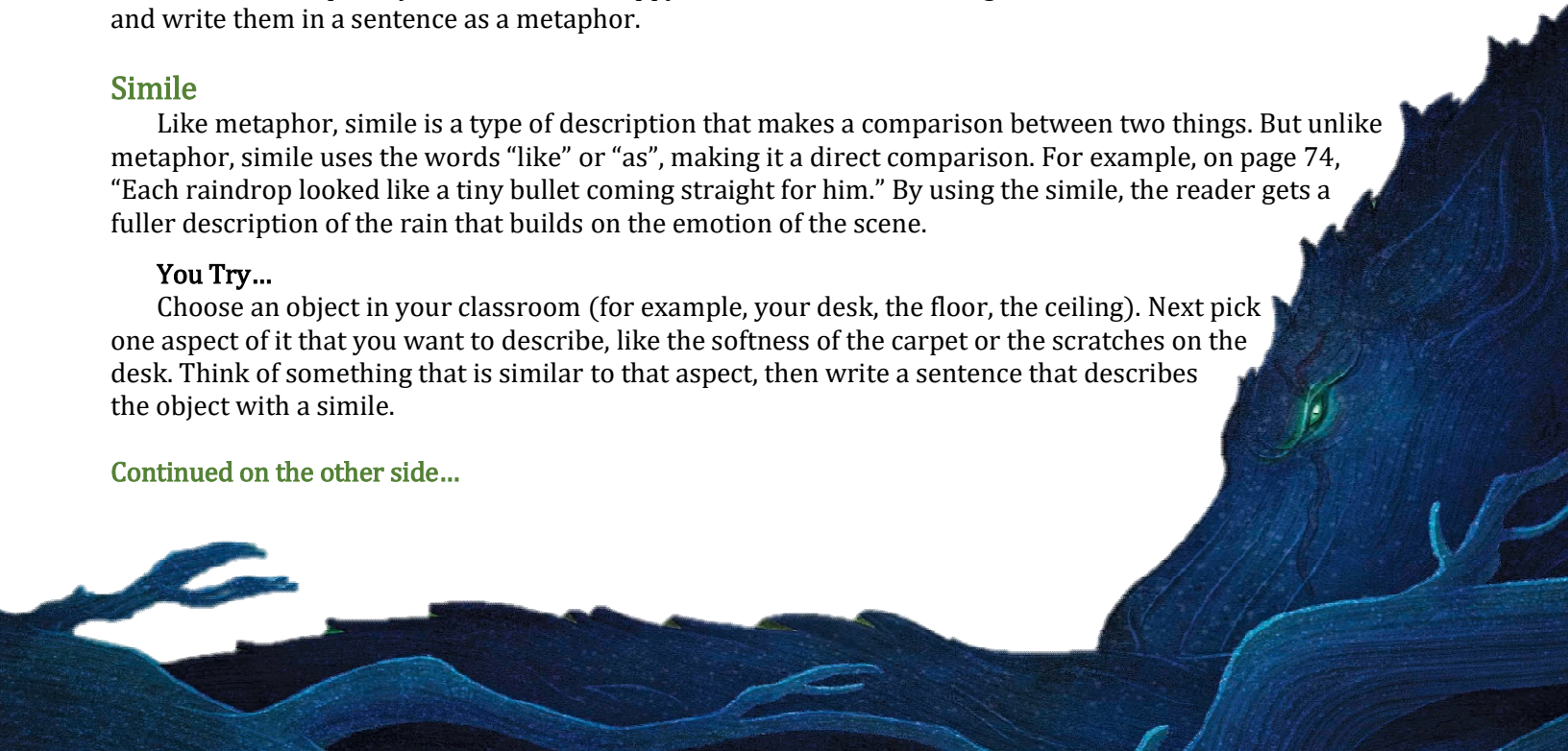
Simile

Like metaphor, simile is a type of description that makes a comparison between two things. But unlike metaphor, simile uses the words "like" or "as", making it a direct comparison. For example, on page 74, "Each raindrop looked like a tiny bullet coming straight for him." By using the simile, the reader gets a fuller description of the rain that builds on the emotion of the scene.

You Try...

Choose an object in your classroom (for example, your desk, the floor, the ceiling). Next pick one aspect of it that you want to describe, like the softness of the carpet or the scratches on the desk. Think of something that is similar to that aspect, then write a sentence that describes the object with a simile.

Continued on the other side...



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Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound of something. For example, in the storm scene (pages 78-85), we find “Pitter-patter, pitter-patter. CRACK! BOOM!” as the rain, lightning and thunder surrounds the boy.

You Try...

Think of a scene you’re writing. Are there any sounds that could be part of the scene, a boot thumping, a rat gnawing, or a bird singing? Find places to insert words that mimic their sounds.

Imagery

With imagery, the senses are used to describe a story’s setting, character or more, so the reader can imagine them. For example, when the boy goes into the forest on page 57, the book describes it this way, “It was darker than the beach, but not as black as it looking from outside. Sharp rays of light bore down between the trees, illuminating a parade of colors. Leaves gleamed every shade of green, brown and gray. Blurs of red and blue twittered in the treetops. Even the air was different. It was cooler and smelled cleaner than the salty air on the beach.”

You Try...

Think of your bedroom. What colors does it have? Is it light or dark? How does it smell? Are there sounds? Describe your bedroom using different senses.

Personification

Personification is a type of figurative language where an object is described in human-like ways. For example, on page 5 of the book, “He ran until he splashed into the searching fingers of the incoming tide.” Also, here’s a line from page 37: “The sun’s warmth kissed the boy good morning.” A tide doesn’t have fingers to search with and the sun’s warmth doesn’t have lips with which to kiss, but by using this personification, the reader understands the actions in a special way. Instead of just the tide coming in, a tide coming in as “searching fingers” gives it a spooky feeling. A sun’s warmth that kisses lets us know it’s comforting.

You Try...

Choose an object that’s around you right now, and write a paragraph that describes that object in human-like ways. As you’re writing, think about how the object moves, or the sounds it makes. Perhaps think about the object’s purpose, or how its action can be interpreted in a human-like way. All of these can help you find ways to use personification in your writing.

Symbolism

With symbolism, one thing is used in place of another, and the symbol tells the reader something about what it’s symbolizing. For example, the boy in the book cares for a baby owl, which symbolizes something in the boy’s past (you’ll find out what when you read the book). The baby owl lets us know that what it symbolizes is also small, sweet, and needs protection.

You Try...

Think of a person or thing in your life or your story, and imagine a symbol for them. Perhaps the symbol is connected to something they wear, or the way they act, or a nickname. Write a paragraph that uses this symbol in relation to you or your character.

CONGRATULATIONS! You’ve helped your class improve their use of figurative language with help from **THE BOY, THE BOAT, AND THE BEAST**.

For discussion guides and additional content, visit SamanthaMClark.com

