

Name: _____

Find A Simile

Date: _____ Pd: _____

Read the following poem; then answer the questions.

The Blind Men and the Elephant

It was four men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind).
That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind.

The first approached the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl:
"God bless me! But the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"

The second reached out his eager hand
And felt about the knee.
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he;
"Tis clear enough the Elephant
Is very like a tree!

The Third, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the face who can.
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"

The fourth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Then seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant—
Is very like a rope!

And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!

-John G. Saxe

1. What two things are compared in the first simile? How are they alike?

2. What two things are compared in the second simile? How are they alike?

3. What two things are compared in the third simile? How are they alike?

4. What two things are compared in the fourth simile? How are they alike?

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Similes

Often when you're trying to describe something, it helps to compare it with something else. When you compare two very different things, linking them with the words *like* or *as* (or sometimes *than*), you are using a simile—*she sings like a canary*, for example.

Some similes are used so frequently, however, they become clichés (see above). Some examples of these overused phrases are “as red as a rose,” “as green as the grass,” “as quiet as a mouse,” “as dead as a doornail,” etc. Writing can be improved by discarding these old clichés and inventing new expressions. Create some original images by completing the following lines. Make your similes as new and fresh as possible.

1. AS DULL AS

4. AS TALKATIVE AS

2. AS BLUE AS

5. AS GREEN AS

3. HE HAS EYES LIKE

6. THE BALLERINA DANCES LIKE

As sharp as a roller coaster curve

There's your simile with a little verbal irony built right in—

