

# METAPHORS OF L-O-O-O-VE

Today we're going to talk about figurative speech. Here's a definition:

Metaphors and similes are both what's called figurative language, or figures of speech. Metaphors and similes are literary devices used to compare one thing to another. They add understanding, dimension and vividness to writing.

Metaphors say straight up that one thing is another ("love is a flame"), deeply connecting one to the other. Similes compare one thing to another using the word "like" or "as" ("slower than molasses in January), and often are colorful sayings that are indigenous to certain regions of the country. (Ginny Weihardt)

The philosopher Giambattista Vico believed that metaphor was the original language—that human beings first spoke in this sort of poetry, especially metaphors that relate to the body. When we tell someone “you are my heart,” it is because we feel them there, in our heart, and have no better way to say it. Metaphors are, often (but not always) a very physical way of describing something that we cannot fully describe. Love and music are, of course, the two hardest things in the world to describe, and so they are often described with metaphors.

“Love begins with a metaphor” (Milan Kundera)

1. Love unbridled is a volcano that burns down and lays waste all around it: it is an abyss that devours all—honour, substance and health. (Richard von Krafft-Ebing)
2. Love does not begin and end the way we seem to think it does. Love is a battle, love is a war; love is a growing up. (James Baldwin)
3. Love is a perky elf dancing a merry little jig and then suddenly he turns on you with a miniature machine gun (Matt Groening)
4. Love is a game at which one always cheats (Balzac)
5. They say love is a two-way street. But I don't believe it, because the one I've been on for the last two years was a dirt road. (Terry McMillan)
6. Love is the master key that unlocks the gates of happiness, of hatred, of jealousy, and most easily of all, the gate of *fear*.
7. And love is a homeless guy searching for treasure in the middle of the rain and finding a bag of gold coins and slowly finding out they're all filled with chocolate and even though he's heartbroken, he can't complain because he was hungry in the first place. (Bo Burnham)
8. Love is a dog from hell (Charles Bukowski)

9. Love is a sickness full of woes  
All remedies refusing;  
A plant that with most cutting grows,  
Most barren with best using. (Samuel Daniel)
10. Is it natural for a man to fall in love? Love is a disease and disease knows no laws (Ivan Turgenev)
11. Some say love, it is a river  
that drowns the tender reed.  
Some say love, it is a razor,  
that leaves your soul to bleed.  
Some say love, it is a hunger,  
an endless aching need.  
I say love, it is a flower  
and you its only seed. (Amanda McBroom)
12. The grief you cry out from  
draws you toward union.  
Your pure sadness  
that wants help  
is the secret cup.
- Listen to the moan of a dog for its master.  
That whining is the connection.
- There are love dogs  
no one knows the names of.
- Give your life  
to be one of them. (Rumi)

Now I want you to write a poem using a metaphor for love. If you don't know how to start, you can begin by writing: Love is \_\_\_\_\_ but I don't want you to stop there. That is—I want you to write a poem, not just one sentence. If love is like a cup of coffee, explain why.

You don't have to follow the formula—you can go a little off, as Rumi does in his poem “Love Dogs” (#12).

1. What emotion(s) do you feel when you listen to this music? Why?
2. How does this music make you physically feel? (like dancing? Like falling asleep?)Why?
3. What other musicians does STL remind you of? Why?
4. What does this music remind you of (besides other musicians?) Why? I'm asking you to come up with metaphors or similes here—you should probably just take some *part* of the song—the baseline, for example or her voice and try to describe it using metaphor or simile.
5. Write down one or two concrete significant details that you notice from watching STL's video. Describe the scene as vividly as you can.