

November 8, 2022

METAPHORS
WITH *MILLIE*



BEFORE WE BEGIN

Have paper and a writing
instrument handy



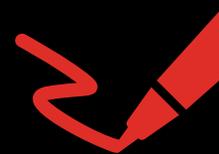
WHAT WE WILL COVER



Definition and
Reason to Utilize



Two easy methods to
create metaphors



Exercise



Read and Q&A

METAPHOR DEFINITION

- A figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness between them (Merriam-Webster)

Example: *My love is a red red rose* (Robert Burns)

- Implicit comparison
- Borrowed Equity
- Evokes thought / emotion
- Builds relationship

METAPHOR / SIMILE DIFFERENCE

- Metaphor uses state of being
 - Is / Was
 - Implicit comparison

My love is a red rose

- Simile uses comparison
 - As / Like
 - Explicit comparison

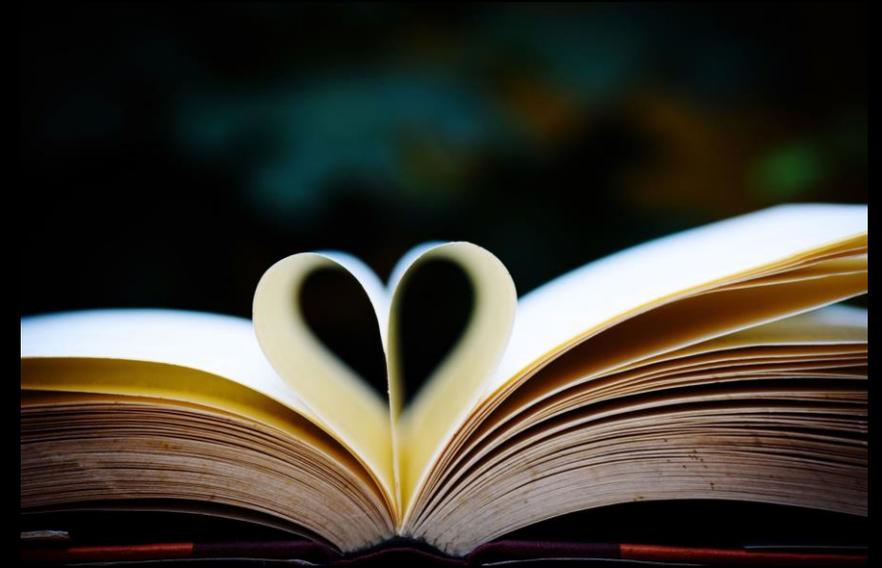
• My love is like a red rose

EXAMPLE

- Weeds grew in front of the old gas station pumps.
- “Weeds fractured the forecourt of an old gas station with the pumps standing there like tombstones.”
Richard Grant, *Dispatches from Pluto*, p. 6

GOAL AS WRITERS

- Keep the reader interested
- Element of surprise
- Fresh, exciting language



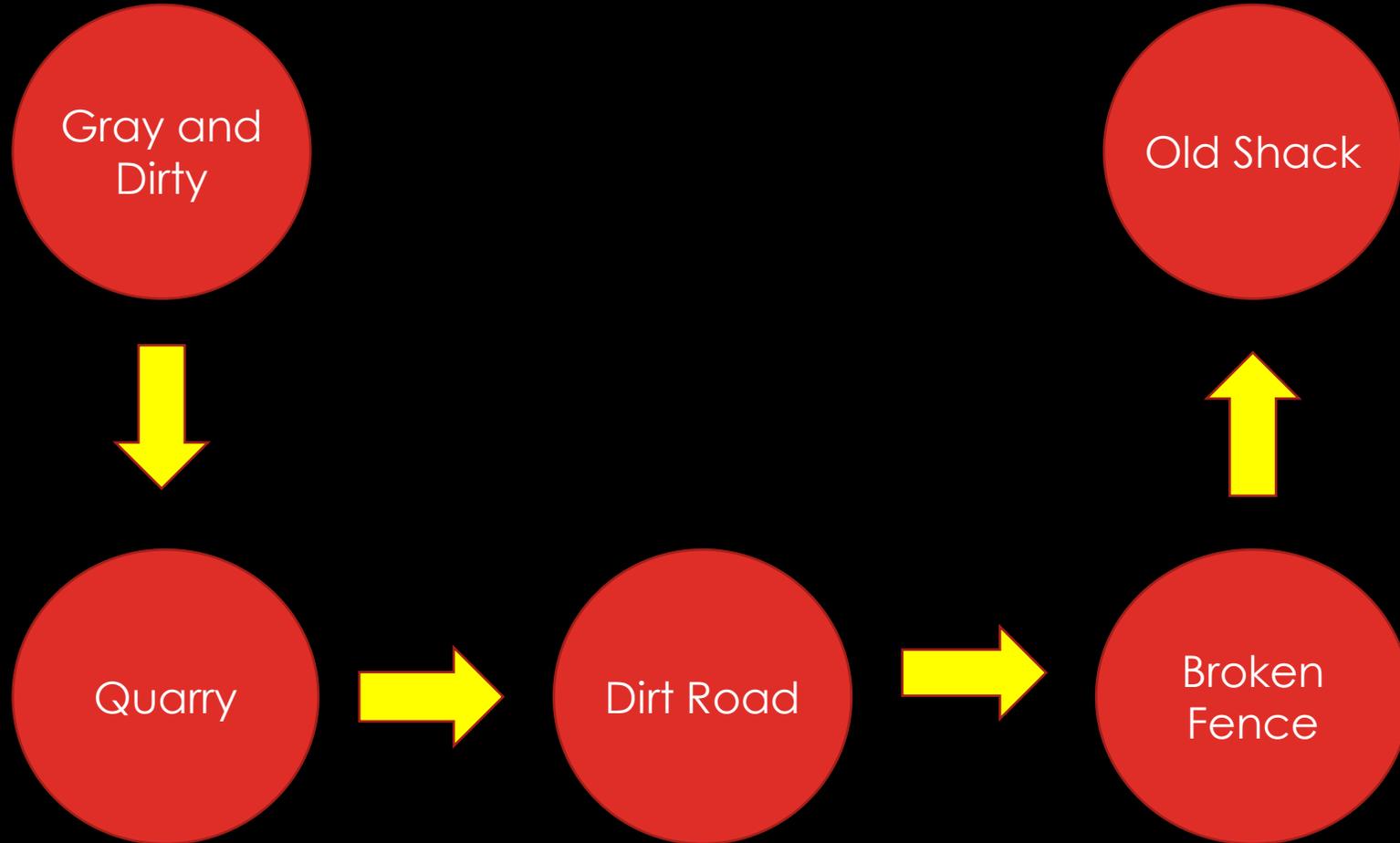
- People will read more if they like our writing.
- Metaphors give our writing seasoning.

METHOD #1: CLUSTERING

- First sentence of my anthology story was

The neighborhood I grew up in was old and full of concrete.

OLD / CONCRETE





REVISED SENTENCE

- I grew up in an abandoned shack of a neighborhood.

CLUSTERING WORKS ON CLICHES

- Why use someone else's words?

The ice cream was as hard as a rock.

- Rock
- Bricks
- Bones
- Diamonds
- Unwavering beliefs

~~*Cliches*~~

- The ice cream was as hard as my unwavering belief in science

CLUSTERING

- What is the overall mood / emotion you are trying to convey
- Pick an object that can help convey that mood
- What else is like that?
- Keep clustering until you feel an emotional resonance

METHOD #2: USE YOUR SENSES

- Suspend disbelief
- Think about how the concept shows up in each sense:
 - ✓What does it look like?
 - ✓What does it sound like?
 - ✓What does it taste like?
 - ✓What does it smell like?
 - ✓What does it feel (touch) like?
 - ✓What does it feel (emotion) like?

EXAMPLE: SLEEPINESS

- What does it look like? / Bridge stuck open
- What does it sound like? / Record skipping
- What does it taste like? / Sauerkraut
- What does it smell like? / Dust
- What does it feel (touch) like? / Broken glass
- What does it feel (emotion) like? / Fly buzzing around me

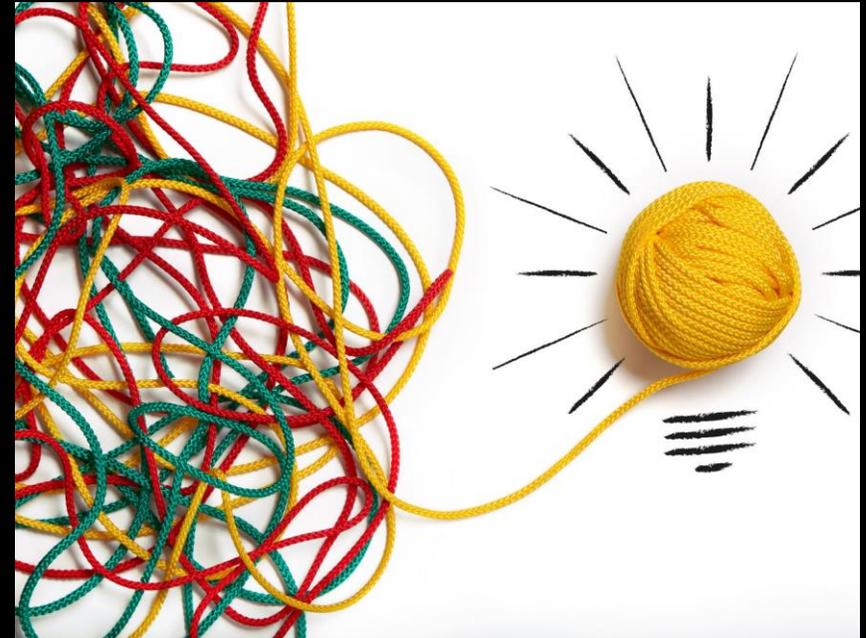


USE YOUR SENSES

- Pick attributes and images that are consistent with your theme
- Relax, open your mind, ask the questions, and record messages

RECAP

- You don't need divine inspiration to create metaphors with impact
- Start with theme
- Use familiar techniques
 - Clustering works well with objects
 - Senses works well with ideas



YOUR TURN

- Use one or both techniques to create your own metaphors
- List can get you started
- Ten minutes, then we can read

Tree	Bench	Happy	Loyal
Bird	Vacuum	Playful	Open
City	Trail	Shy	Fear
Highway	Mountain	Empty	Boredom
Coffee Cup	River	Pain	Love
Water	Book	Learning	Waiting

READ AND Q&A

