



USE YOUR WORDS

Dig Deeper Script Series: Metaphors

*GENERAL NOTE: Words in **BOLD** are intended to be shown onscreen.*

FADE IN:

WHITEBOARD

The words “Metaphor,” “like,” and “as” appear. A red circle/line are drawn over “like” and “as.”

NARRATOR

When you compare two different things *without* using **like** or **as**, that’s called a **Metaphor**.

A GIRL sitting on a lawn.

NARRATOR

The grass was a green carpet...

She runs her hand over the grass and smiles.

NARRATOR

When you compare *grass* to a *green carpet*,

what do you see?

“grass” and “green carpet” flash. The girl thinks. In her thought bubble we see a room with a green carpet.

NARRATOR

Grass that’s soft and smooth.

The girl lies down on the grass and sighs happily. She gives us a thumbs-up.

NARRATOR

It’s important to know how to use metaphors because they can make your writing much more interesting.

A BOY sits in bed, reading with a flashlight.

NARRATOR

Let’s say you’re writing a story about a boy who likes to stay up late. You could say, **The boy stayed up late**, but that’s not very interesting, is it? Instead, use a metaphor to *compare* the boy to something else. **The boy was a night owl.**

The boy turns into an owl. He HOOTS in surprise and looks at us.

NARRATOR

Whoops! Remember, a metaphor *compares* one thing to another. The boy doesn’t actually *change* into an owl!

The owl changes back into the boy. “the boy” and “night owl” flash.

NARRATOR

Comparing *the boy* to a *night owl* helps the reader see a boy who loves the nighttime. He’s wide awake when everyone else is asleep.

The boy gives us a thumbs-up.

A MAN sits at a table with knife and fork.

NARRATOR

When you write, **The man was very hungry**, your reader might see something like this.

A sandwich and apple appear. The man takes a big bite.

NARRATOR

When you use a metaphor -- **The man's stomach was a bottomless pit** -- your reader gets a *very* different picture!

“stomach” and “bottomless pit” flash. Plates of food pile up around the man. He gives us a thumbs-up then digs in, eating voraciously.

NARRATOR

When you use a metaphor, it's like putting a *picture* in your reader's mind. And that makes your writing more fun to read.

A WOMAN reading a book. We ZOOM IN on her head until a brain-shaped space fills the screen. Images appear in this brain-shaped area.

NARRATOR

So instead of writing, **The stars were bright**, use a metaphor to help your reader *see* the stars. It's easy! Just *compare* the stars to something else: **The stars were sparkling diamonds...**

The brain-shaped area turns black. Stars dot the night. As the metaphor appears, the stars come to life, sparkling. The words “stars” and “sparkling diamonds” flash.

Clouds fill the brain-shaped space.

NARRATOR

The secret to a good metaphor is the *comparison*. **The clouds were bricks in the sky.**

The comparison words flash. The clouds turn to bricks and fall out of the frame.

NARRATOR

That's not a very good comparison, is it?

The clouds reappear.

NARRATOR

The clouds were balloons in the sky.

The comparison words flash. The clouds turn to balloons and float out of the frame.

NARRATOR

I think we can write a better metaphor than that! **The clouds were cotton balls in the sky.**

The clouds become round, puffy, fuzzy, soft. The comparison words flash.

NARRATOR

Great metaphor! We're comparing clouds to cotton balls, which are soft, fuzzy, and round. Now the reader can *see* the clouds!

The clouds stay in place as we ZOOM OUT to the woman reading the book. She watches the clouds float above her like cotton balls.

NARRATOR

So the next time you're writing a description, do your reader a favor: use a metaphor!

The woman smiles and gives us a thumbs-up, and we:

FADE OUT

THE END