

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 7 AND 8 WRITING/HANDOUT 7

Today, we will learn how to write a simile poem. Think of a topic for your simile poem. The poem can be about you or about another topic, such as a pet, favourite season, or sport. Write the topic on the line below. Then in each of the seven boxes write one physical or character trait describing the topic (for example, long legs, curly hair, or brown eyes).¹

Simile Poem Topic: _____

	Trait 1	
Trait 2		Trait 4
	Trait 3	
Trait 5		Trait 6
	Trait 7	

¹ Lesson adapted from <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/lonely-cloud-using-poetry-907.html?tab=4#tabs>

After coming up with seven physical or character traits, read the following poem.

A Red, Red Rose

Robert Burns, 1759 - 1796

O my luve's like a red, red rose,

That's newly sprung in June;

O my luve's like the melodie

That's sweetly played in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,

So deep in luve am I;

And I will luve thee still, my dear,

Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,

And the rocks melt wi' the sun:

O I will love thee still, my dear,

While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only luve,

And fare thee weel awhile!

And I will come again, my luve,

Though it were ten thousand mile.

Underline the simile in line 1, “O my love’s like a red, red rose.” The poet could have stopped there, but he adds, “That’s newly sprung in June.” Is there another example of this technique of adding on to the simile to make it more descriptive?

Share your similes with your peers. How would you add on to the simile to make it more descriptive? For example, if the simile is, “My shoes are as blue as the sky,” you may develop it into “My shoes are as blue as the sky on a cloudless summer day.”

Develop a rough draft of your poem in the space the box below. Your polished product will be on page 4.

