*The Metaphor*

By Budge Wilson

met·a·phor

*noun*

a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.

a thing regarded as representative or symbolic of something else, especially something abstract.

This story uses the powerful literary device of the metaphor to explore relationships and the impact people have on each other. The metaphor is a very helpful tool to better explain our sometimes complicated feelings about something.

***Assignment: to engage the power of the metaphor to explore your world, relationships and the significant people in your life.***

**Part 1: Vocabulary in Context.** Locate each of the following words in the story and write your own definition for each.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **WORD**  **(and page number)** | **Part of speech** | **YOUR DEFINITION** |
| dispensing (p. 215) |  |  |
| flamboyant (p. 215) |  |  |
| modulations (p. 215) |  |  |
| profusion (p. 215) |  |  |
| arsenal (p. 217) |  |  |
| discourse (p. 218) |  |  |
| pungent (p. 218) |  |  |
| verve (p. 218) |  |  |
| hackneyed (p. 218) |  |  |
| verbatim (p. 219) |  |  |
| fetid (p. 222) |  |  |
| oblique (p. 223) |  |  |
| blasé (p. 227) |  |  |
| unequivocal (p. 227) |  |  |
| invulnerable (p. 231) |  |  |
| blatant (p. 231) |  |  |

**2. Connecting Text to Self, Text to World**

1. In the modern era of cyber bullying and online trolls, how would the students harass Ms. Hancock? Would it be the same and have the same impact? How could/would Charlotte interact with her classmates and teacher differently if social media were part of the story?

2. Complete the write around activity found at the end of the assignment. You can write your thoughts directly on the page if you’re in class or make a separate response sheet if at home and online. The idea is to do some critical thinking and analysis of the metaphors Charlotte has made about the important women in her life.

**Part 2:** Create 5 basic metaphors about important people, aspects and/or elements of your life. These could include family, friends, pets, hobbies, passions, etc.

A basic metaphor is very easy: My mother is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*now do this four more times but choose someone new every time!)*

**Part 3:** Choose your 2 favourite basic metaphors and turn them into extended, well developed, thoughtful comparisons like Charlotte does in the story about her mother and Ms. Hancock. These are more challenging but when done right, they are incredibly powerful representations of your chosen subjects.

Once you have a rough draft of your 2 extended metaphors, edit them thoroughly! Use the peer editing checklist to ensure you have looked at all the elements.

**Part 3:** When you are happy with your edited extended metaphors, turn them into good copies and create a mini poster of each metaphor. Present each extended metaphor on plain paper and add visual imagery or colour or symbols to help better present your metaphor. The imagery should connect with the ideas and message of your extended metaphor.

**Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***\*\*Make sure to hand in both your rough work (edited rough copies and basic metaphors) as well as your good copy posters!***

**ASSESSMENT for “The Metaphor” Connection Activity**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Emerging (1/2)** | **Developing (3/4)** | **Proficient (4/5)** | **Extending (6)** |
| **Writing**  **Format/**  **design**  **Connection to metaphor** | Metaphor is unclear, underdeveloped. Grammar errors impede meaning.  Materials and organization are poorly selected. Design is incomplete and unclear.  The artwork/design is unconnected to the subject and/or lacks development. | Metaphor is clear, but simplistic. Superficial and obvious listing of elements. Some errors in writing.  Materials and organization are somewhat neat and clear. Design is somewhat comprehensible and attempts to be purposeful.  Connection to subject may be unclear in the artwork/design. May be underdeveloped or obvious. | Metaphor is clear and logically developed. Developed comparison between subjects adds to understanding. No errors.  Materials and organization of image are neat, clear, purposeful and comprehensible.  Connection to subject is clear in artwork/design. Elements work to show a deeper meaning. | Metaphor shows sophistication, quality of imagination and/or wit. No errors.  Materials and organization of image are exceptionally thoughtful and sophisticated.  Connection to subject is highly thoughtful and sophisticated (beyond obvious). |

**WRITE AROUND ACTIVITY**

**These are the two metaphors Charlotte writes in *The Metaphor*. Deconstruct them into the key ideas and details. What do the pieces represent?**

***Remember: This story uses the powerful literary device of the metaphor to explore relationships and the impact people have on each other. The metaphor is a very helpful tool to better explain our sometimes complicated feelings about something.***

**Metaphor 1**

My mother is a flawless, modern building, created of glass and the smoothest of pale concrete. Inside are business offices furnished with beige carpets and gleaming chromium. In every room there are machines- computers, typewriters, intricate copiers. They are buzzing and clicking away, absorbing and spitting out information with the speed of sound. Downstairs, at ground level, people walk in and out, tracking mud and dirt over the steel-grey tiles, marring the cool perfection of the building. There are no comfortable chairs in the lobby.

**Metaphor 2**

Miss Hancock was a birthday cake. The cake was frosted by someone unschooled in the art of cake decorations. It was adorned with a profusion of white roses and lime green leaves, which dropped and dribbled at the edges where the pastry tube had slipped. The frosting was of an intense peppermint flavour, too sweet, too strong. Inside, the cake had two layers- chocolate and vanilla. The chocolate was rich and soft and very delicious. No one who stopped to taste it could have failed to enjoy it. The vanilla was subtle and delicate; only those thoroughly familiar with cakes, only those with great sensitivity of taste, could have perceived its true fine flavour. Because it was a birthday cake, it was filled with party favours. If you stayed long enough at the party, you could amass quite a large collection of these treasures. If you kept them for many years, they would amaze you by turning into pure gold. Most grown-ups would have thrown it away after one brief glance at the frosting. I wish the party wasn’t over.