

## Lesson Plan

### Making Metaphors

**Book:** *Skylar Diggins-Smith*

**Series:** WNBA Superstars

**Level:** Navigator

### Objective

To help students practice creating and interpreting metaphorical language.

### Supplies

- *Skylar Diggins-Smith* book
- Whiteboard
- Making Metaphors worksheet (attached)
- Pencils

### Before the Activity

Read the *Skylar Diggins-Smith* book out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own. Print a copy of the Making Metaphors worksheet for each student.

### Activity

Chapter 1 (“Skylar on Fire!”) of *Skylar Diggins-Smith* describes a week in which Diggins-Smith made several amazing plays. To highlight these impressive achievements, the book’s author uses vivid language. Write the following excerpts on the whiteboard:

- Page 6: “Just two days later, Diggins-Smith was hotter than ever.”
- Page 8: “The ball sliced through the basket. Her incredible shot tied the game.”
- Page 9: “Diggins-Smith had proved she was one of the WNBA’s brightest stars.”

Explain that all three excerpts are examples of metaphorical language. None are literally true—the ball didn’t cut the basket, and page 6 isn’t talking about temperature. Instead, they use metaphor to make comparisons, showing how two things are similar: the ball moved quickly and cleanly like the slice of a knife, and Diggins-Smith’s play was fast-paced and exciting like heat or fire. Like many good metaphors, these examples highlight what two seemingly different things have in common.

Have students practice creating metaphors by filling out the Making Metaphors worksheet. Invite one or two volunteers to share their favorite metaphor with the class.

**Evaluation**

Collect the worksheets and give students 1 point for each metaphor that uses a creative comparison to illustrate or reflect the sentence's meaning, for up to 10 points total.

**Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' language standards, grade 5 (L 5.4).

# Making Metaphors

1. The first day of summer break is \_\_\_\_\_

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2. The day of the math test, I woke up feeling \_\_\_\_\_

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3. During the thunderstorm, the clouds \_\_\_\_\_

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4. The smell of my grandma's cooking \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Each day when I get home from school, my dog \_\_\_\_\_

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6. When rain cancelled my camping trip, I felt \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Watching our team win the championship made me \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Running a mile made my legs \_\_\_\_\_

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9. After the party, the house was \_\_\_\_\_

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10. My friends and I laughed until \_\_\_\_\_

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