

Lesson Plan

Sports Similes

Book: *Arike Ogunbowale*

Series: WNBA Superstars

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students practice identifying and creating similes, as well as to understand the difference between similes and metaphors.

Supplies

- *Arike Ogunbowale* book
- Whiteboard
- Sports Similes worksheet (attached)
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Read the *Arike Ogunbowale* book out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own. Print a copy of the Sports Similes worksheet for each student.

Activity

Chapter 1 (“Unstoppable”) of the *Arike Ogunbowale* book describes an exciting game between the Dallas Wings and the Washington Mystics. Part of what makes this game exciting to read about is the vivid language the author uses to describe it. Throughout this chapter, the author uses several similes and metaphors. Write the following examples on the board:

- Page 5: “Her play was as flashy as the Wings’ neon yellow uniforms.”
- Page 6: “So, Ogunbowale stepped on the gas.”

Explain that the sentence from page 5 is a simile. A simile compares two things using the word *like* or *as*. The sentence from page 6 is a metaphor. A metaphor compares two things directly. Metaphors do not use *like* or *as*. Instead, they describe one thing in place of another. In the example from page 6, Ogunbowale’s play is described as if she’s pushing the gas pedal on a car. Like a car that’s accelerating, her quick moves involve speed and power.

Pass out the Sports Similes worksheet. Ask students to fill in the blanks to create similes of their own. Each simile should include the word *like* or *as*. Invite one or two volunteers to share their favorite simile with the class. Then collect the worksheets.

Evaluation

Give students 1 point for each simile that highlights, reflects, or builds on the original idea and that includes the word *like* or *as*, 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).

Sports Similes

1. It was the fourth quarter of the championship game, and the mood in the stadium was _____

2. Both teams were playing _____

3. Suddenly, one player broke away from the others, running _____

4. As she raced down the court, she spun _____

_____ to avoid the other team's defenders.

5. Then, she fired a three-point shot that flew toward the basket _____

6. Her aim was _____

7. The ball hit the net _____

_____ and swished in.

8. The crowd cheered _____

9. Her teammates cheered, too, smiling _____

10. The players were _____

_____ to be the champions.