

# Using popular songs to teach similes

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Word Count **431**

Level **580L**



Singer and songwriter Pink performs at Rod Laver Arena on July 16, 2018 in Melbourne, Australia. Photo: Quinn Rooney/Getty Images

A simile directly compares two things. It uses the words "like" or "as." When the two things are compared, they can have a new meaning.

Songs are filled with similes. The song called "Cold as Ice" is one example. It is by the rock group Foreigner. The words include a simile:

*You're as cold as ice.*

*You're willing to sacrifice our love.*

These words aren't talking about the weather. Instead, they compare a woman to ice. This shows her feelings.

Many songs can be used to teach about similes. Another example is in the title of Bob Dylan's song "Like a Rolling Stone." It is about a woman who has lost all her money:

*How does it feel*

*To be without a home*

*Like a complete unknown*

*Like a rolling stone?*

"Like a Prayer" by Madonna is another song with a simile. Shania Twain has a song called "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!" Nirvana has one called "Smells Like Teen Spirit." Neil Young has one called "Like a Hurricane."

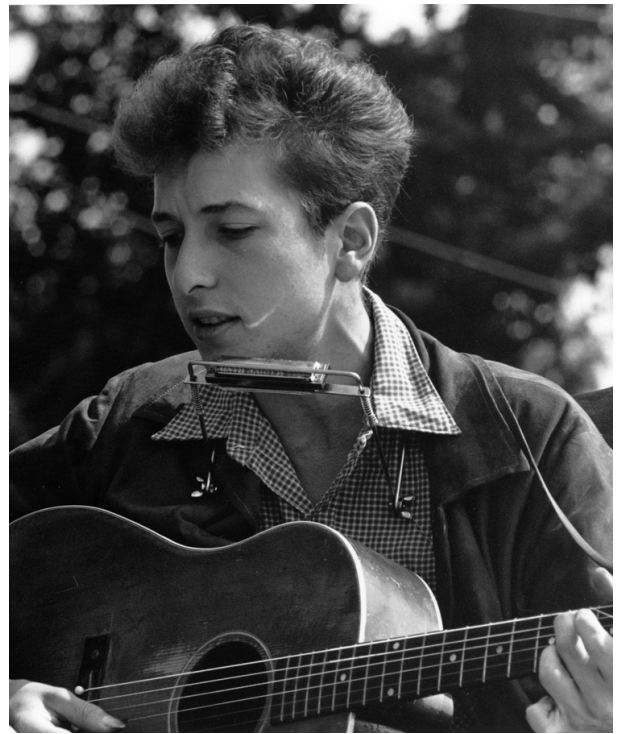
Elton John wrote a song about Marilyn Monroe. It is called "Candle in the Wind." The song compares her life to a candle:

*And it seems to me you lived your life*

*Like a candle in the wind*

*Never knowing who to cling to*

*When the rain set in.*



Similes are very common in songs. The Imagine Dragons song "Believer" is one example. Lead singer Dan Reynolds had a serious form of arthritis. Arthritis makes your body hurt. The song says:

*I was choking in the crowd,*

*Living my brain up in the cloud,*

*Falling like ashes to the ground.*



These words compare being hurt to ashes falling from the sky.

Shawn Mendes also uses similes. Here are some of the words from "Stitches":

*Just like a moth drawn to a flame*

*Oh, you lured me in, I couldn't sense the pain*

Another example is "Ex's & Oh's" By Elle King. This song is about King's past relationships. This part of the song uses the word "like" to make a comparison:

*Exes and the oh, oh, oh's they haunt me*



*Like ghosts they want me to make 'em all*

*They won't let go*

## Quiz

1 Read the following lines from the song "Cold as Ice."

*You're as cold as ice.*

*You're willing to sacrifice our love.*

What is the definition of "sacrifice" based on the context clues?

- (A) throw away
- (B) make stronger
- (C) share
- (D) use up

2 Read the following line from the song "Candle in the Wind."

*Never knowing who to cling to*

What does the author mean by "cling"?

- (A) be true
- (B) hold on
- (C) hold up
- (D) be left

3 What information do you find in the first two paragraphs of the article?

- (A) why people write similes
- (B) how to write a simile
- (C) who likes similes
- (D) what a simile is

4 What is the structure of this article?

- (A) It lists songs with similes in chronological order.
- (B) It gives examples of similes used in songs.
- (C) It shows why similes are used in songs.
- (D) It explains how to write a simile in a song.