

## **Animals In All Kinds Of Weather: Metaphor**

(For younger students)

Animals are probably the favorite subjects of poetry for very young children. In this activity, students will connect animals with another familiar and favorite subject, weather, to create metaphors.

- 1) Begin by asking students to name the different kinds of weather they know about. List their responses and add others they might leave out. Some children might mention a season or a time of the day, such as sunset. Accept these contributions as well.
- 2) Focus on one subject, such as clouds, and ask them to think about how clouds sometimes look like and move like certain animals. Ask them to tell their discoveries about cloud animals. Make up a simile with one of their weather-animal connections: "Clouds look like horses." Ask them to make their idea a little longer by adding a word that tells how horses move: "galloping," "trotting," etc. Finish the image by suggesting that their cloud-horses must be "galloping across the windy sky."
- 3) Next, make the transfer from simile to metaphor by suggesting that it might be more exciting to say that the clouds *are* horses: "Clouds are horses galloping across the windy sky."
- 4) Have them create another metaphor with another weather. If you get responses such as "Snow is a bird landing on the ground," encourage them to become more specific: instead of "bird," ask them to tell what kind of bird: seagull, dove, owl, etc. You could help them to make the general word, "ground" more visual by asking if the ground is a garden, sidewalk, meadow, etc. This is a good opportunity to begin developing the practice of being more visual and specific in word choices.
- 5) Read the student poetry samples to them so they can develop an ear for possibilities, then create another metaphor for a different kind of weather.
- 6) At this point first graders and possibly kindergartners could write down their metaphors. It might be helpful for some to have a form on the board: (Blank) is a (blank).....Before ending this session have the children act out one of their weather-animal poems or do an art project illustrating the metaphor.

## Sample Poems

Fog is a white cat  
purring on the window.

*-Rosie, Kindergarten*

Sunset is a parrot  
flapping its wings  
over the lake.

*-Alex, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade*

Hurricane is a hedgehog  
chasing his tail.

*-Sam, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade*

Icicle is a white horse  
holding still.

*-Emilia, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade*