**A metaphor** is a word or a phrase used to describe something as if it were something else:

For example, "A wave of anger washed over him." The anger isn't actually a wave, but a wave is a good way of describing the feeling.

"Polonius is a snake." Polonius is not a snake, but it's a way to explain his personality; he’s sneaky and crafty.

**A simile** describes something by **comparing it to something else**, using like or as: The snake moved **like a** ripple on a pond.

It was **as slippery as** an eel. Polonius is **as sneaky as a snake**

TASK:

Rewrite/add to each sentence below turning it into a metaphor or simile.

Ask a partner to write underneath whether you have used a metaphor or a similie

1. People around the castle said Hamlet was acting strangely.
2. Tears streamed down Ophelia’s face.
3. Polonuis is cunning.
4. It was dark outside.
5. Hamlet told Rosencrantz and Guildenstern he didn’t believe them

ANSWERS

You could have lots of different answers but below are some examples.

1. People around the castle said Hamlet was acting strangely.

People around the castle said Hamlet was acting as strangely as a ghost in daylight.

SIMILIE

1. Tears streamed down Ophelia’s face.

Tears streamed down Ophelia’s face like a river.

SIMILIE

1. Polonuis is cunning.

Polonius is a cunning fox

METAPHOR

1. It was dark outside.

It was as dark as coal outside. SIMILIE

1. Hamlet told Rosencrantz and Guildenstern he didn’t believe them

Hamlet told Rosencrantz and Guildenstern they were weaving a tangled web

METAPHOR