

Memorable Metaphor

Metaphor: A figure of speech that speaks of an idea or an object as if it is another e.g. 'The Wolf of Wall Street', 'lionhearted', 'flighty', 'loan-shark'

Simile: uses 'like' or 'as' to compare two things e.g. 'she is as strong as a bear'.

In both cases, likening a human to an animal is a classic metaphorical device to show character traits or attributes simply and quickly.

Metaphors and similes run throughout our language. Some are clichéd – 'he is the black sheep of the family', 'I'm burning up' – but they are useful. However, including some interesting metaphorical devices in your speeches and talks can help people follow you and remember the main points you are trying to communicate. Many poems are built on strong, memorable metaphors and similes in order to represent the world or experience in different ways.

Also, think about how you remember things: Is it easier to remember a rhyme? What childhood rhymes do you remember? You don't necessarily have to use 'true' rhyme in speeches but think about how you *sound* in your public speaking: echoes, repetitions, rhetorical questions – the list is long. The examples below bring together metaphorical speech, rhythm, rhyme and metrical beat to communicate powerful messages.

The Power of Poetry and Spoken Word: Some examples

- Kate Tempest – 'Renegade' -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NRYLzWovtk> (5:03)
- Danez Smith – 'Dear White America' -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSp4v294xog> (3:18)
- Katie Ailes – 'For my Daughter' -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHuG46eKR8w> (4:39)
- Tawona Sithole – 'Daydreaming in Darkness' -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhQAvQgImUA&t=54s> (2:16)
- Kei Miller – 'The Law Concerning Mermaids'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUeOfuxZIs4> (2:10)

Hauling-out

Samuel Tongue

The ferry has brought me this far,
slow, rocking gently on its patches

of salt-rust, its bellyful of cars.
Cormorants are drying their wings

like dark angels resting from the hunt.
Humpback mountains dusted with snow

fall over themselves to fill the horizon,
or are caught, mirrored in the loch's dark shimmer.

Later, along the wet coast road,
I watch seals blubber onto boulders,

heavy bellyfuls of fish, and envy them their balance,
the way they rock gently on the point between two worlds.