Spice Up Your Stories With Similes!
with author April Jones Prince

Ahoy, writers! Did you enjoy *Goldenlocks and the Three Pirates*? I hope the silly words I used might inspire you to do some writing of your own. Because writing can be fun! When you recruit juicy words to be part of your crew, the page becomes your playground.

One of my favorite things about writing *Goldenlocks and the Three Pirates* was choosing playful words and pirate language. Since I was writing a story based on a traditional tale (in this case, a fractured fairy tale), I didn’t have to worry too much about plot. That freed me to play with characters, setting, objects, and word choice.

There are many ways to have fun with language. One is by using similes. A simile is a figure of speech that compares two things using the word “like” or “as.” Similes can make your writing more vivid by creating an image of comparison in the reader’s mind. Here are some examples:

- Slippery as an eel
- Fast as a cheetah
- Sweet as cotton candy
- He swims like a fish

The more specific you are, the easier it is for readers to visualize what’s in your head. Check these out:

- Wild as the wind during a full-blown blizzard
- Confusing as the first day at a new school
- Boring as a week of watching grass grow
- She cried like a child who had toppled her ice cream cone on a scorching summer day

In *Goldenlocks and the Three Pirates*, the similes are often specific to seafaring or pirate terminology. This adds a distinct flavor to the story. Here are some examples from *Goldenlocks*:

- Sturdy as a sea chest
- Hard as a turtle shell
- Hot as cannon fire
- Soft as chicken feathers
- Cold as cave moss
- Tight as a stopper knot
- Cold as an Arctic breeze
- Loose as hand-me-down britches

Below, you’ll find a pirate map with a mini-story spinoff of *Goldenlocks and the Three Pirates*. But the map is incomplete! Finish it using the most vivid similes you can think of.

First, get your juices flowing by brainstorming some similes. Stretch your creative muscles and try to think of at least five options for each comparison. The more brainstorming you do, the more inventive your ideas become. You can draw from your own experience and also from your imagination. I got you started, but the rest is up to you. Don’t forget to use your juicy, descriptive words!

Have fun and write hearty, me hearties!
Things that are **red**

strawberries
Swedish Fish candy
Elmo

Things that are **tall**

the Empire State Building
Abe Lincoln’s hat

Things that are **dark**

(you get the idea)

Things that are **cold**

Things that are **shiny**
BLIMY! We’ve been robbed by Captain Dribblebeard! He stole our gruel, snatched Baby’s new chair, and swiped a chest chock-full of coins! We’re so angry, our faces are as red as

But we’re hot on his trail...

FIRST we climb the Perilous Peaks.
These mountains are as tall as

NEXT we creep through Fearsome Forest.
The narrow path is as dark as

THEN we swim across Craggy Cove.
The water is as cold as

FINALLY, on Dribblebeard’s Dunes,
we sniff out and dig up our treasure.
The gruel is cold, but tasty.
Baby’s chair is creaky, but comfy.
And the coins? They’re as shiny as

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