

Secrets From Great Writers!

THIS MONTH'S SECRET: SIMILES

Similes are a way of describing something by comparing it to something else, using the words "like" or "as." In his hilarious story about a rascally rooster named Leghorn, author Watt Key uses similes to make his descriptions jump off the page and come to life. In this activity, you will practice using them.

Directions: Read each statement and answer the corresponding questions.

1. "... he snapped like a steel trap and jabbed his beak at you."

What does this simile mean?

What does it tell you about Leghorn?

Write a simile of your own that expresses the same idea.

2. Sometimes I worried that he was even becoming stronger—like a prisoner who lifts weights and conditions his mind to survival.

What does this simile mean?

What does it tell you about Leghorn's behavior?

Write a simile of your own that expresses the same idea.

Continued

3. I remained outside for several minutes, hands resting on the latch, imagining Leghorn crouched like a runner waiting for the gunshot.

What does this simile mean?

What does it say about how Wally feels around Leghorn?

Write a simile of your own that expresses the same idea.

4. He began to crow all day long like an insane person that yells at inappropriate moments.

What does this simile mean?

How does it show Leghorn's change in behavior? Why is this important?

Write a simile of your own that expresses the same idea.

5. When I went to Disney World and rode The Pirates of the Caribbean, every pirate was just another swashbuckling Leghorn.

Is this a simile or a metaphor? How can you tell?

What does it say about Wally's change of heart with regard to Leghorn? Why do you think this is?
