

# A Poem Is a Faithful Companion.

In the poem "A Tomcat Is," J. Patrick Lewis paints a picture of a male cat, using lots of expressive language, including metaphors. Metaphors, such as the title of this activity, describes something by calling it something else. You're probably using metaphors without knowing it—like when your little brother steals your cookie, and you say "You're a pig!" You don't mean he has a snout and a curly tail. You're comparing him to an animal that eats a lot. In this activity, you will learn more about metaphors and how to use them to make your writing come alive.

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks below and then write your own poem

**I.** Find three metaphors in "A Tomcat Is." Then explain what you think each metaphor means. We've done the first one for you.

1. needle-point claws

A cat's claws are small and sharp, like a needle.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**II.** Now write three of your own sentences using metaphors.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Critical Thinking

Choose one of your original sentences and expand upon it to write your own poem on a separate sheet of paper. You can write about any subject you'd like—a pet, a sport, a book—as long as you include at least two metaphors..