



A **metaphor** is a figure of speech that refers to one thing by mentioning another; it is a word or phrase for one thing that is used to refer to another thing to show or suggest that they are similar.

### **Life is a garden.**

(What do life and a garden have in common? We need certain things to grow. We plant (figuratively speaking) things expecting a particular harvest. We reap what we sow. (We get back the things that we give.) If you plant a tomato seed, you can only get tomatoes; if you plant hatred, that is what will grow in your life. Things must be plucked up and out. There is a season and time to plant certain things. Plants die and we do, too. Sometimes bad things stop us from growing. In gardens, weeds, insects, and weather can prohibit growth. Plants and flowers need to be pruned; we need to cut off certain things, too.

How is a metaphor different from a simile? A metaphor doesn't use "like" or "as" when making a comparison of two words. **Example of a simile: Life is like a garden.**

**Examples of metaphors.**

He is a shining star.

Her classroom is a zoo.

Love is an ocean.

Kisses are flowers of affection.