

## CRAFT MINI-LESSON 3

# Writing with a Simile

**Reading Connection:** Comparisons are one way that we all make sense of our world. Authors use comparisons to tell their readers what things look like, how they feel, etc. The use of similes is an effective strategy for reinforcing observational skills and logical thinking.

**Speaking & Listening Connection:** Using similes orally to describe people, places, things, and events will enhance the listening comprehension of a story.

**Materials:**

- *Quick as a Cricket* by Audrey Wood or any other book with similes
- one small object (such as a marshmallow) for each partnership

**Prep Step:** Find something small enough for each partnership to examine and that lends itself to being compared to something obvious.

### Connection

Remind students of the work they have been doing with showing, not telling. Explain that sometimes a writer can help the reader picture a moment or an item in their minds by comparing it to something familiar. **Today, I want to teach you how writers use similes to paint pictures with words. Similes are comparisons between two things using the words *like* or *as*. Similes help your reader connect what they know to what you are telling them with your words.**

### Teach

Use a picture book that contains several similes (*Quick as a Cricket* by Audrey Wood works well). Share that the main character, a little boy, compares himself to many things throughout the book so that we can get to know him. Read some of these similes aloud. You might say: “Did you see how the little boy compared himself to a cricket because a cricket is quick and so is he. Then he compared

himself to an ant because an ant is small and so is he. Audrey Wood used similes, comparing two things using the word *as*, to help us picture the little boy. She thought about things the boy liked to do or how he felt and then thought about something she could compare the boy to that would paint the picture that she wanted us to see.” Explain that writing with comparisons is an effective way to write descriptively.

### Active Engagement

Give each partnership the same small object, such a marshmallow. Ask partners to work together to compare the marshmallow to something else. Have them think about how they want their reader to see the marshmallow: What does it look like, feel like, taste like, etc. Then think about what you could compare it to using the words *like* or *as*. Listen in to their ideas. Share a few. Then record some of them on chart paper (*as fluffy as a cloud, as white as snow, as soft as cotton*, etc.).

## **Link to Future Work**

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Remind students that anytime they need to paint pictures in their reader's mind, they can use similes. Remind them that similes are comparisons between two things using the words *like* or *as*, and that they allow readers to see exactly what the writer is seeing.

## **Follow up**

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There are many picture books that provide models for similes. Keep a class chart of the similes students notice while reading. •