

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

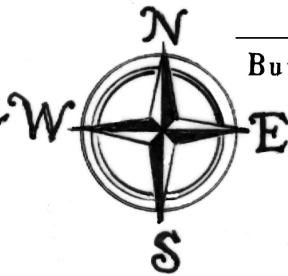
(you get the idea)

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



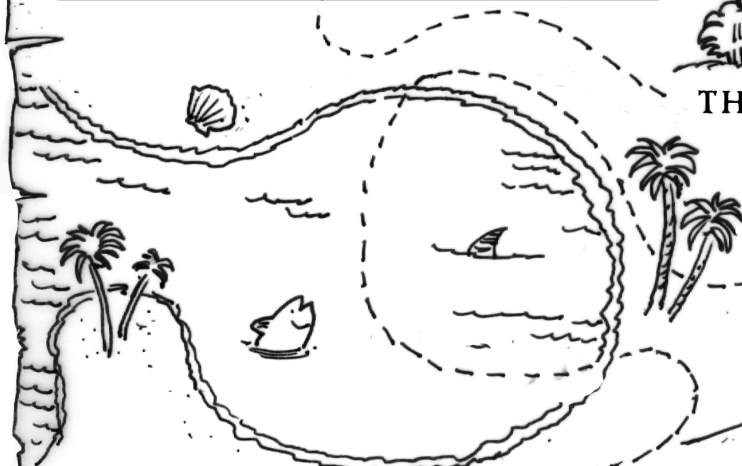
But we're hot on his trail...

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

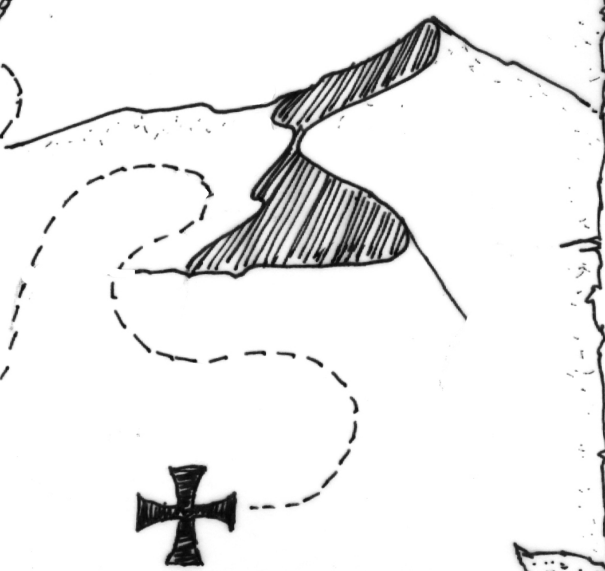
NEXT we creep through Fearsome Forest.
The narrow path is as dark as



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



Inspired by *Goldenlocks and the Three Pirates* by April Jones Prince.
Published by Farrar, Strauss & Giroux November 2017