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Imagery in *The Call of the Wild*

Jack London made excellent use of imagery in his novel *The Call of the Wild*. Think about the mental pictures created by the phrases in bold. Then fill in the chart on the following page.

1. From Chapter I: "Into the Primitive"

"Buck lived at a **big house** in the **sun-kissed Santa Clara Valley**....It stood...half hidden among the trees, through which glimpses could be caught of the **wide, cool veranda** that ran around its four sides. The house was approached by **gravelled driveways** which wound about through **wide-spreading lawns** and under the **interlacing boughs of tall poplars**....There were...rows of **vine-clad servants' cottages**, an endless and **orderly array of outhouses**, **long grape arbors**, **green pastures**, **orchards**, and **berry patches**. Then there was the pumping plant for the artesian well, and the big cement tank where Judge Miller's boys took their morning plunge and **kept cool** in the **hot afternoon**."

2. From Chapter I: "Into the Primitive"

"For two days and nights this express car was dragged along at the tail of **shrieking locomotives**; and for two days and nights Buck neither ate nor drank. In his anger he had met the first advances of the express messengers with **growls**, and they had retaliated by teasing him. When he flung himself against the bars, **quivering and frothing**, they laughed at him and taunted him. They **growled and barked** like detestable dogs, **mewed**, and flapped their arms and **crowed**....He did not mind the hunger so much, but the lack of water caused him severe suffering and fanned his wrath to fever-pitch....The ill treatment had flung him into a fever, which was fed by the inflammation of his **parched and swollen throat and tongue**."

3. From Chapter II: "The Law of Club and Fang"

"A **whiff of warm air** ascended to his nostrils, and there, curled up under the snow in a snug ball, lay Billy."

4. From Chapter V: The Toll of Trace and Trail

"It was beautiful spring weather, but neither dogs nor humans were aware of it....The whole long day was a **blaze of sunshine**. The **ghostly winter silence** had given way to the **great spring murmur** of awakening life. This **murmur arose** from all the land, fraught with the joy of living....The **sap was rising** in the pines. The **willows and aspens were bursting out** in young buds. **Shrubs and vines were putting on fresh garbs of green**. **Crickets sang** in the nights, and in the days all manner of creeping, crawling **things rustled** forth into the sun. **Partridges and woodpeckers were booming and knocking** in the forest. **Squirrels were chattering**, **birds singing**, and overhead **honked the wild-fowl** driving up from the south in cunning wedges that split the air."

Unlikely Comparisons

Each of the following excerpts contains a simile or a metaphor. For each figure of speech in bold whether tell whether it is a simile or a metaphor and which two things are being compared. Then give the reason for the comparison.

1. From *The Lost World*, by Arthur Conan Doyle (Chapter 10, “The Most Wonderful Things Have Happened”)

Situation: The male pterodactyls, who are perched on stones high above, are being described.

“Their huge, membranous wings were closed by folding their forearms, so that they sat **like gigantic old women**, wrapped in hideous web-coloured shawls.”

This is a _____.

2. From *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett (Chapter 1, “There Is No One Left”)

Situation: Mary’s mother had not wanted a little girl, so she put her in the care of an Ayah.

“Because the Mem Sahib would be angry if she was disturbed by her crying, by the time she was six years old she was as **tyrannical and selfish a little pig** as ever lived.”

This is a _____.

3. From *Criss Cross*, by Lynn Rae Perkins (Chapter 4, “Radio Show”)

Situation: Debbie had been sunbathing, but she did not turn over.

“In their fronts-only sunburned state, her bare legs **reminded Hector of a freshly opened, unscooped box of Neapolitan ice cream**, minus the chocolate stripe.”

This is a _____.

Unlikely Comparisons, Continued

4. From *Catherine, Called Birdy*, by Karen Cushman (“24TH OF SEPTEMBER”)

Situation: Catherine is upset because her father seeks to arrange a marriage for her with a wealthy, but boring man.

“Now **my father, the toad**, conspires to sell me **like a cheese** to some lack-wit seeking a wife.”

This is a _____.

_____ and _____ are compared

because _____

This is a _____.

_____ and _____ are compared

because _____

5. From *James and the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl (Chapter 2)

Situation: James has been sent to live with his two horrible aunts, one of whom is described here.

“Aunt Spongy was enormously fat and very short. She had...one of those white flabby faces that looked as though it had been boiled. She was **like a great white soggy overboiled cabbage.**”

This is a _____.

_____ and _____ are compared

because _____

6. From *Kira, Kira*, by Cynthia Kadohata (Chapter 2)

Situation: Katie tells how her father described her mother.

“My mother **was a delicate, rare, and beautiful flower....**She was so delicate that if you bumped in to her accidentally, you would bruise her.”

This is a _____.

_____ and _____ are compared

because _____
