

# Araby

## Examining and Analyzing Metaphors



“Araby” first appeared in James Joyce’s 1914 short story collection, *Dubliners*. The story follows the narrator, an unnamed young boy, around turn-of-the-century Dublin. The boy is deeply infatuated with a neighbor girl, and he resolves to go to the market at Araby to find a gift for her. Joyce uses a rich array of metaphors and personifications to convey the narrator’s evolving experiences of delight, desire, and disenchantment.

This worksheet gives students an opportunity to practice examining and analyzing metaphors. Metaphors express images, emotions, actions, experiences, and nuances through direct and indirect comparisons, allowing attentive readers to access deeper levels of meaning in the text. In this worksheet, students will learn to classify and analyze different kinds of metaphors in order to develop close reading skills and draw inferences from the text.

### **Skills**

- Analysis
- Drawing inferences from text
- Close reading
- Identifying the relationship between words

### **Learning Objectives**

By using this worksheet, students will:

- Examine metaphors in a text
- Classify metaphors in a text as direct and indirect
- Analyze metaphors by focusing on the two things being compared and interpreting how one of them is described through the comparison

## Examining and Analyzing Metaphors

Examine the examples of metaphors in “Araby” that are recorded in the Metaphor column below.

Identify the type of metaphor (direct, simile, or indirect).

Identify what is being described and what it is compared to, and then interpret the comparison.

Record your answers to complete the chart.

Metaphor	Type of metaphor	What is being described?	What is it being compared to?	What does the comparison suggest in describing it?
1. “The other houses of the street, conscious of decent lives within them, gazed at one another with brown imperturbable faces.”				
2. “The space of sky above us was the colour of ever-changing violet and towards it the lamps of the street lifted their feeble lanterns”				
3. “the dark odorous stables where a coachman smoothed and combed the horse or shook music from the buckled harness.”				
4. “Her dress swung as she moved her body and the soft rope of her hair tossed from side to side.”				

## Examining and Analyzing Metaphors

Metaphor	Type of metaphor	What is being described?	What is it being compared to?	What does the comparison suggest in describing it?
10. "Nearly all the stalls were closed and the greater part of the hall was in darkness. I recognised a silence like that which pervades a church after a service."				
11. "I looked humbly at the great jars that stood like eastern guards at either side of the dark entrance to the stall and murmured: 'No, thank you.'"				

### NOTES

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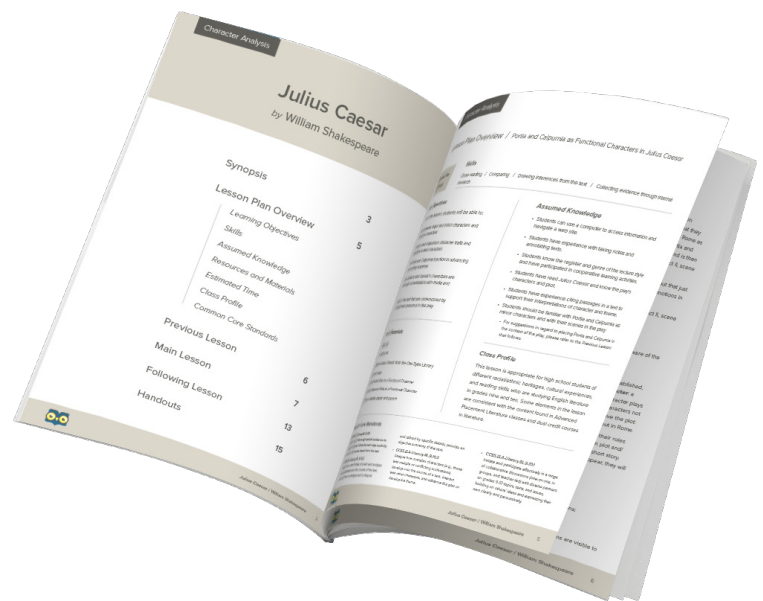
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