What is a Metaphor?

Name:_____

Figurative language includes special forms that writers use to help readers make a strong connection to their words. A **metaphor** is one kind of figurative language. It makes a direct comparison of two unlike things. You can tell the difference between a metaphor and a simile because a simile uses the words "like" or "as", and a metaphor does not. Metaphors often usually use a form of the verb "to be". The verb can be in the past tense (was, were), the present tense (am, is, are), or future tense (will be).

Have you ever had to do a chore you thought was so big you would never finish it? You can use a metaphor to describe it!

The laundry was a mountain on the couch, and I had to fold it all!

Connecting the laundry to a mountain, something understood to be huge, emphasizes the fact that the chore is a large one.

Read the sentences below. Explain what the metaphor compares, and why.

1. My dad is a bear in the morning before he drinks his coffee!

   _____ is being compared to _____

   because_____.

2. The wind was an angry witch, howling across the night sky.

   _____ is being compared to _____

   because_____.

3. When it was her turn to dance, Melissa was a graceful butterfly flitting across the stage.

   _____ is being compared to _____

   because _____.

4. Steven's angry words were bullets that hit Greg right in his heart.

   _____ is being compared to _____

   because _____.

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