



Metaphors

Read this poem aloud.

What is the Sun?

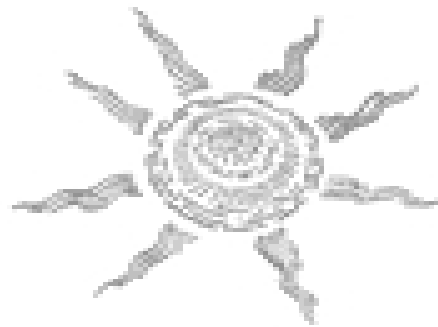
the Sun is an orange dinghy
sailing across a calm sea

it is a gold coin
dropped down a drain in Heaven

the Sun is a yellow beach ball
kicked high into the summer sky

it is a red thumb-print
on a sheet of pale blue paper

the Sun is a milk bottle's gold top
floating in a puddle



W. H. Auden

How many metaphors for the Sun can you find in this poem? Make a list of them below. Remember: A metaphor is something described as if it were something else. It is like a simile but does not include the words like or as.

an orange dinghy

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Rewrite one of the five verses, and change the metaphor to a simile. To do this, you only need to add one word.

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Pick a verse from the poem, and write a short paragraph explaining what is meant by the description of the Sun.

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Which of the metaphors in the poem seems most effective to you? Why?

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