

Analogy

Making Concepts
More Familiar

Analogy

- Comparing two objects, events, actions, people, etc. that are similar one or more ways
- Often used in description and exposition
- Example: from Shakespeare's "Sonnet #130"
"black wires grow on her head"
 - Her hair is thick and stiff like wires

Purpose of an Analogy

- Makes unfamiliar topic (uncommon experience) familiar by comparing it to well-known, common, familiar topics/experiences
- Previous slide's example, readers don't know what "her" hair looks like (unfamiliar), Shakespeare compares it to wires (familiar) which helps the reader understand/see the image

Example: Paraphrased from “Rappaccini’s Daughter” by Nathaniel Hawthorne

- **The man of science gazed at his beautiful daughter with a triumphant look on his face, just as an artist who spent his life creating a work of art might look at that work and be satisfied with his success.**

- **Unfamiliar:** Readers do not know the “man of science,” his daughter, or their relationship
- *Familiar:* Readers can imagine the artist’s connection to his works of art
 - Reader assumes: The “man of science” feels he spent whole life “creating” his daughter, and is satisfied by his success

Example: Paraphrased from “The Duchess and the Jeweler” by Virginia Woolf

- *Imagine a giant hog in a pasture rich with truffles; after unearthing this truffle¹ and that, still it smells a bigger, blacker truffle underground, further off. **So Oliver, the greatest jeweler in the world, snuffled always in the rich earth of his town for another truffle.***

– ¹Truffle: an edible fungus found underground by pigs; a delicacy

- **Unfamiliar:** Readers have just met Oliver, and don't know his outlook on life
- *Familiar:* Most readers are familiar with truffles (and the hogs used to find them)
 - Reader Assumes: Oliver is dissatisfied with what he has and is always searching for a bigger, better prize. (Also, he's as greedy as a pig!)