

# IN Residence

## Storied Away



Hello! My name is **Frances Stickley** and I'm a published picture book writer and the 2020 Author in Residence for Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries. As a writer, I love to play around with language. All of my picture books are written in rhyme, so I spend a lot of my time choosing the language for my stories, but sometimes, it can be so hard to find the right words!

### Wizardry with Words

Words are to writers what paint is to an artist; they're the way that we build new worlds, create characters, share feelings and meaning and shape a story. Language takes centre stage for so many wonderful art forms; song, poetry and script writing are just a few of those examples, so it's really important to explore what it means and how powerful it can be.

### Silly Similes

One of the devices that you'll often find in stories, songs and poetry is a simile. A simile is a comparison, often used with an adjective (or a describing word). You might be familiar with similes like *as quick as a cat* or *as strong as an ox*.

Quite often, a writer might use a simile to exaggerate something and make it sound even more impressive than it really is, like *the ocean shone as bright as gold*. It's a really good way to add that little something extra to your descriptive writing.

**Talking time:** Why not take turns with friends to come up with some similes of your own?

The

was as

as a

# Silly Similes

Similes usually make sense. We wouldn't say, for instance, that the little girl ran as quick as a tortoise, because tortoises aren't fast! \* However, it can be really interesting to explore different comparisons and see where the language leads you. You might find you come up with something perfect quite by accident.



*\*Although you might use this simile if she was really slow, which adds a nice comic tone to your writing...*

Here is a game I like to play to experiment with descriptive language that really gives me food for thought...

**You will need:** A 6-sided dice.

Here is a table with nouns (a name or label word) all down the left-hand side. We're going to roll the dice to find a silly simile that might describe that noun. We'll probably end up with some ridiculous ideas but it's often the silliest ideas that lead to the best stories and poetry.

You'll need to roll the dice 3 times to get your noun, your adjective (describing word) and your comparison that make up your simile.



The **1st roll** was as **2nd roll** as a **3rd roll**

roll a	Noun (name/ label)	Adjective (describing word)	Comparison
1	Midnight sky	terrifying	plate of beans
2	Spooky castle	exciting	Tuesday afternoon
3	Broken robot	gigantic	wet cat
4	Hibernating bear	peculiar	swarm of wasps
5	PE lesson	deadly	birthday cake
6	Bedtime story	enchanted	bomb going off

Why not make your own table like this and see what silly similes you can come up with?

If you enjoyed learning about silly similes, you can find out more at [www.inspireculture.org.uk/inresidence](http://www.inspireculture.org.uk/inresidence)