**MAPOS**

Metaphor

A metaphor is a way of describing something by saying that it is so much like something else that it actually becomes the other object. For example, we might think that the moon looks like a diamond. Rather than say ‘he stared up ominously at the moon shining like a diamond in the night sky’ (which would be a simile), we could say ‘he stared up ominously at the shining diamond in the night sky’.

Alliteration

Alliteration is when a sound is repeated several times in words which are close together. For example, ‘the whistling wind whipped up the leaves and sent them whirling around the grounds’. The sound that is repeated will usually come at the start of the word, but can come in the middle or at the end.

Personification

Personification is when human characteristics are given to objects that are not human. For example, ‘the trees stood guard silently, watching my every move’. Trees can’t really watch anything, but using personification helps to build a very powerful image in the mind. If you want to use personification, think about what human actions the think you are describing might be doing and use these to base your description on.

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is the use of words that sound like the sound they are describing. For example, crash, bang, snap. Using onomatopoeic words helps the reader to use all their senses when building an image of the scene you are describing. Think about the sounds that might be taking place in your scene. What words would describe these sounds?

Simile

Similes are a way of describing something by saying that it is like something else. Similes will usually contain the word like or the phrase ‘as … as a …’. For example, ‘the sun blazed excruciatingly like an inferno on her back’ or ‘the waves were as big as mountains crashing wildly into the rocks’. To write a simile, think about a comparison you could make that would really help the reader to picture the image you are trying to describe.

Now have a go.

Look at the picture on the next page. How many MAPOS sentences can you write about it? Remember to add interest to your sentences by including adjectives and adverbs as well.

