

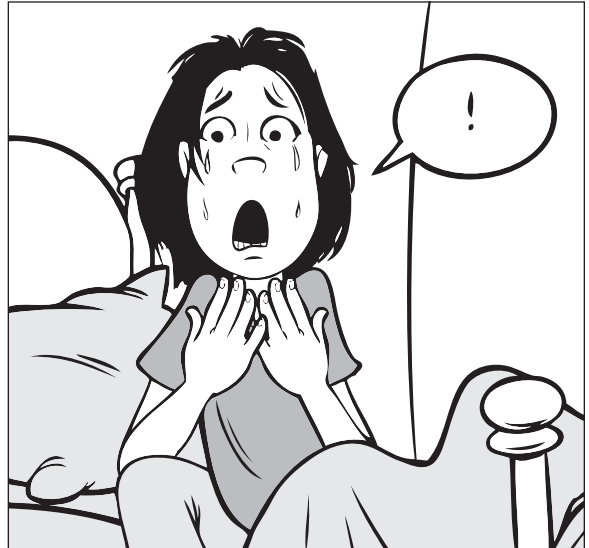
Similes in Context 3

Underline the 13 similes in this story. Then answer the questions.

Marlena has been singing since she was a little girl. Her mom always says, “She sang like a bird before she said her first sentence. And, from the beginning, her voice was as sweet as syrup.”

Three days before the concert, Marlena woke up and discovered her voice was gone. She tried to talk, but her voice was as squeaky as a rusty wheel. She tried to sing, but her voice sounded like nails on a chalkboard.

Her mom ran up the stairs like a freight train and threw open the door to Marlena’s room. “What was that awful sound?” she asked. “It sounded like someone choking.” Then she noticed the tears running down Marlena’s face.



Marlena pointed to her throat. “Oh no,” Marlena’s mom said. “Your voice is gone. Does your throat feel as rough as sandpaper?” Marlena nodded. “Is your head pounding like a drum?” Marlena nodded again.

“Oh, Honey,” her mom said. “You must have that nasty cold that’s going around. It’s spreading like wildfire. You’ll need lots of rest, and you’ll have to be as quiet as a mouse. If you take it easy, your voice might be ready by the concert.”

Staying quiet was like torture for Marlena, but she did it. On the morning of the concert, she tried to sing. Her voice was back! Her head still felt like it was in a vice, but she could sing. That night her mom was in the front row. She was as proud as a peacock when Marlena sang her solo.

Similes in Context 3, *continued*

1. Marlena **sang like a bird**. What's something else she could sing like?
 - a. a violin
 - b. thunder
 - c. a river

2. The story says Marlena's voice was **as sweet as syrup**. Complete this simile so it means the opposite of "as sweet as syrup."
Marlena's voice was as sour as _____.

3. Complete this simile so it means the opposite of **as squeaky as a rusty wheel** and **like nails on a blackboard**. Marlena's singing voice _____.
 - a. was as smooth as butter
 - b. was as rough as gravel
 - c. sounded like a train wreck

4. Why wouldn't it be a good idea to **run up the stairs like a freight train**? _____

5. Someone who is ill might have a **throat as rough as sandpaper** or a **head that pounds like a drum**. What's another simile that describes someone who is sick?
 - a. stomach feels like it's in a knot
 - b. a fever as hot as fire
 - c. as fit as fiddle

6. If something **spreads like wildfire**, it _____.
 - a. is hard to stop
 - b. moves slowly
 - c. is a disaster

7. What's the opposite of **as quiet as a mouse**? as _____ as _____

8. Why was **having to stay quiet like torture** for Marlena? _____

9. What could you do if your **head felt like it was in a vice**?
 - a. wear a bigger hat
 - b. take aspirin
 - c. jump up and down

10. Which simile is a synonym for **as proud as a peacock**?
 - a. as pleased as punch
 - b. as silent as the tomb
 - c. as cool as a cucumber