

Guinan/Writing

Fight the cliché!!!

Metaphors are how we think. Metaphors are how language came about in the first place. A metaphor is the words we find when we have no word for something. The power of an original metaphor cannot be underestimated in good writing, but too often the lazy writer opts for the handy, trite phrase.

Part I:

Generate a list of ten well-worn metaphors: Life is no bed of roses, He isn't the sharpest tool in the shed, He was the kingpin of the operation, she was a fox, like there's no tomorrow, it's not rocket science, what am I chopped liver? et cetera. He laughed like a hyena, she played like an angel, they ran like the wind, the stars twinkled like diamonds, et cetera.

Part II

Now **replace or rework** each well-worn metaphor with one of your own that conveys more or less the same meaning. How about the stars twinkled like hyenas? Play like the sharpest tool. Life is a box of ghosts. Shop like you're on thin ice...

So. First a list of 10. Then the 10 reworked.