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“Metaphors”  
by  
Tom Holbrook

As a writer I’m constantly on the lookout for sources of new material and inspiration. The advantages of writing a regular column in the newspaper are the readers who always provide me with some of the ideas for my articles and to them I say “Thank you.” I don’t put into print all the ideas coming my way but some are so outrageous or funny I must share them with you.

I received one such e-mail from someone who came across what are purported to be actual submissions by high school students of their examples of the use of metaphors in an essay writing assignment. If these are not actually from students I congratulate the writer who sent them for his great sense of humor. Some of these I might use in my first great novel.

The following are the gems I received:

- 1- “Her face was a perfect oval, like a circle that had its two sides gently compressed by a Thigh Master.”
- 2- “His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.”
- 3- “She grew on him like she was a colony of E. coli, and he was room-temperature Canadian beef.”
- 4- “She had a deep throaty laugh, like that sound a dog makes just before it throws up.”
- 5- “He was as tall as a six-foot, three- inch tree.”
- 6- “The revelation that his marriage of 30 years had disintegrated because of his wife’s infidelity came as a rude shock, like a surcharge at a formerly surcharge-free ATM machine.”
- 7- “The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn’t.”
- 8- “McBride fell 12 stories, hitting the pavement like a Hefty bag, filled with vegetable soup.
- 9- “Her hair glistened in the rain like a nose hair after a sneeze”
- 10- “The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots when you fry them in hot grease.”
- 11- “Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.”
- 12- “The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for awhile.”
- 13- “Shots rang out, as shots are wont to do.”
- 14- “He fell for her like his heart was a mob informant and she was the East River.”
- 15- “John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.”
- 16- “Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 pm, traveling at 55 mph, and the other from Topeka at 4:19 pm at a speed of 35 mph.”
- 17- “They lived in a typical suburban neighborhood with picket fences that resembled Nancy Kerrigan’s teeth.”
- 18- “From the attic came an unearthly howl. The whole scene had an eerie, surreal quality, like when you’re on vacation in another city and Jeopardy comes on at 7:00 pm instead of 7:30.”
- 19- “The ballerina rose gracefully en Pointe and extended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a fire hydrant.”

- 20- “It was an American tradition, like fathers chasing their kids around with power tools.”  
21- “He was as a lame duck. Not the metaphorical lame duck either, but a real lame duck that was actually lame, maybe from stepping on a land mine or something.”

And the three best ones that left me in stitches:

- 22- “The plan was simple, like my brother-in-law Phil. But unlike Phil, this plan just might work.”  
23- “He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a garbage truck backing up.”  
24- “Even in his last years, Granddad had a mind like a steel trap, only one that had been left out so long, it had rusted shut.”

I can honestly say I wish I had written some of these... it gives me a warm feeling all over to know that future for more great literature is safe because of these up and coming authors. Can you guess the sex of the writer by some of the comments? No way to know for sure but that ATM card comment and the garbage truck comment sure gives big clues and number 17 just had to be written by Tonya Harding.

Until next week folks, keep laughing.

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