

from THE CANTERBURY TALES: THE WIFE OF BATH'S TALE

COPY MASTER

Grammar and Style

ADD DESCRIPTIVE DETAILS

Similes are figures of speech that use *like* or *as* to make comparisons. The more concrete the visual image, the more vivid the mental picture produced by the simile.

Singing he was, or fluting all the day,

He was as fresh as is the month of May.

(“The Prologue,” lines 93–94)

Directions: Write couplets modeled on Chaucer’s work. Include similes that create a vivid mental picture for the reader.

EXAMPLE

And all day long, stayed hidden like an owl,

It was such torture that his wife looked foul.

Each day at three, he flew free as a bird,

Released then from the school he found absurd.

1. He was embroidered like a meadow bright
And full of freshest flowers, red and white.

2. A wart on which there stood a tuft of hair
Red as the bristles in an old sow’s ear.

3. Just like a priest in front; his legs were lean,
Like sticks they were, no calf was to be seen.

4. This Pardoner had hair as yellow as wax,
Hanging down smoothly like a hank of flax.
