

Name _____

Date _____

Extended Metaphor

An **extended metaphor** is a rhetorical device that takes a central metaphor and develops it **over the course of a passage, paragraph, or even an entire text**. Rather than a simple comparison, an extended metaphor **expands** on the similarities between two different things, providing additional details and layers of meaning.

Read each passage carefully. Then, complete the fill-in-the-blank statement at the end of each passage.

Passage 1

“Bobby Holloway says my imagination is a three-hundred-ring circus. Currently I was in ring two hundred and ninety-nine, with elephants dancing and clowns cartwheeling and tigers leaping through rings of fire. The time had come to step back, leave the main tent, go buy some popcorn and a Coke, bliss out, cool down.” (Dean Koontz, *Seize the Night*. Bantam, 1999)

The extended metaphor compares imagination to a

_____.

Passage 2

“Life is a mountain. You climb and you struggle, sometimes slipping on the rocks or pausing to catch your breath. But if you keep going, you eventually reach the summit, where you can look back and see how far you’ve come, and marvel at the view before you.”

The extended metaphor compares life to a _____.

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Extended Metaphor

Passage 3

"Her voice was music, a melody that danced through the room, wrapping everyone in its rhythm. It crescendoed like a symphony, lifting spirits and carrying emotions to new heights. When she spoke, it was as if the world paused to listen, caught in the beauty of her song."

The extended metaphor compares her voice to

_____.

Passage 4

"The classroom was a battlefield. Desks were fortresses, and pencils were swords. The students were warriors, each fighting their own battle with knowledge as their weapon. The teacher, their commander, stood at the front, leading the charge against ignorance."

The extended metaphor compares the classroom to a

_____.

Passage 5

"The internet is an ocean. It's vast, with endless waves of information crashing onto the shores of your mind. Some parts are calm and shallow, perfect for dipping your toes in, while others are deep and dangerous, pulling you into unknown currents. You need to navigate it carefully, or you might get lost."

The extended metaphor compares the internet to a

_____.

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Extended Metaphor – Answer Key

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The extended metaphor compares imagination to a three-hundred-ring circus.

Passage 2

“Life is a mountain. You climb and you struggle, sometimes slipping on the rocks or pausing to catch your breath. But if you keep going, you eventually reach the summit, where you can look back and see how far you’ve come, and marvel at the view before you.”

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The extended metaphor compares the internet to a ocean.