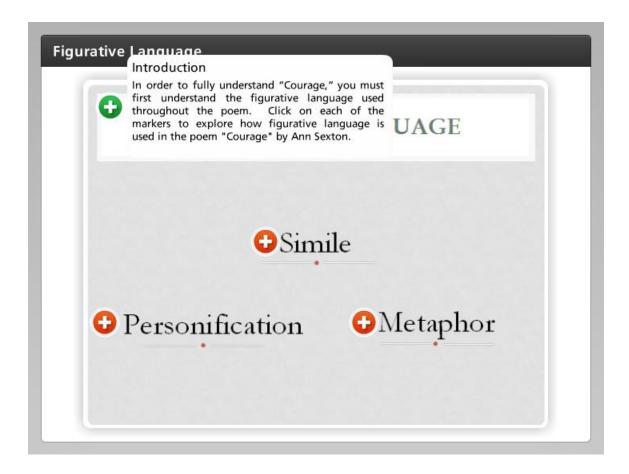
### Introduction



In order to fully understand "Courage," you must first understand the figurative language used throughout the poem. Click on each of the markers to explore how figurative language is used in the poem "Courage" by Ann Sexton.



### **Simile**



A simile is a direct comparison of dissimilar things using "like" or "as." In one example from the poem, Sexton uses a simile to describe a child's first step. "The child's first step/as awesome as an earthquake."



## Metaphor



A metaphor is an implied comparison in which two very different things are compared by redefining one of them. Here is an example of a metaphor describing the words that bullies used in the early stages of life, "you drank their *acid*." The word "acid" is used showing how toxic the bullies' words really are.



### Personification



With personification, the author gives human qualities to non-human objects or creatures. This is used by the author to create imagery. In "Courage," you will view a few examples of personification. Sexton personifies "sorrow" by writing, "you gave it a back rub and then you covered it with a blanket."

