Figurative Language Map – Simile and Metaphor (Example)

A good simile or metaphor is like alchemy, in that it creates something new out of ordinary things. Two ordinary, much different images are fused together to create a compelling new image.

Figurative Language
‘The great bald head of the sun rose over the horizon.’

Information: literal/factual
Bald head, roundness, hairless, male, shiny, smooth.

Information: literal/factual
The sun: shining, hot, round, large, orange, rises in the morning, sets in the evening.

Outline similarities and differences
Similarities: Both the sun and a bald head are round and smooth.
Differences: A bald head is human; the sun is a celestial object.

Language Fusion
Though two wildly different things, the sun, a celestial object, could be likened to a man’s bald head because it shares the same characteristics of being round and smooth.

Created by David Newman speech-language pathologist