

Writing about Metaphor: A Sample Paragraph

My love is like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June:
My love is like the melody
That's sweetly played in tune...

--Robert Burns

In the poem Burns compares a woman to both a rose and a melody to suggest how much in love he is. A “red, red rose” (1) of June is pleasing to the senses, just like the speaker’s love. A rose is beautiful and fragrant and suggests (because it blooms and grows) life itself, and the speaker also views his love as beautiful and vibrant. Similarly, his love is compared to a sweet “melody” (3) to suggest the nature of his feelings. Not only is the sweet melody, as before, pleasing to the senses (as his love), but there is also a rightness to the melody-- a sense that things are as they should be, given that the melody is “played in tune” (4) (again, the same way he feels about his love). In both cases, the comparison is made to clarify the degree to which the speaker’s love is felt.