

Identify Simile Metaphor Personification Passage Study Guide

Identify simile metaphor personification passage is a vital skill in literary analysis that allows readers to deepen their understanding and appreciation of written works. Recognizing these literary devices helps unveil the authors' intentions, enriches interpretation, and enhances engagement with texts across genres. Whether you're a student preparing for exams, a teacher guiding students through literature, or an avid reader seeking to analyze texts more thoroughly, mastering the ability to identify similes, metaphors, and personification passages is essential.

In this comprehensive guide, we will explore what these literary devices are, how to identify them in passages, and why they matter. We will also examine practical strategies and provide examples to illustrate the concepts clearly. By the end of this article, you will be equipped with the skills to confidently analyze passages for similes, metaphors, and personification, enhancing your literary comprehension and critical thinking.

Understanding Literary Devices: Simile, Metaphor, and Personification

Before delving into identification techniques, it's important to understand what similes, metaphors, and personification are, including their definitions and distinctive features.

What is a Simile?

A simile is a figure of speech that directly compares two different things using the words "like" or "as." Similes are used to create vivid imagery and help readers visualize or understand a concept more clearly.

Examples of similes:

- "Her smile was like sunshine."
- "He fought as fiercely as a lion."
- "The night was as dark as coal."

Key features of similes:

- Use of "like" or "as."
- Explicit comparison between two different objects or ideas.
- Typically straightforward and easy to identify.

What is a Metaphor?

A metaphor is a figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true but helps explain an idea or make a comparison. Unlike similes, metaphors do not use "like" or "as"; instead, they state that one thing is another.

Examples of metaphors:

- "Time is a thief."
- "The world is a stage."
- "Her voice was music to his ears."

Key features of metaphors:

- Implicit comparison.
- Equates two unlike things directly.
- Often more poetic and nuanced than similes.

What is Personification?

Personification gives human qualities or abilities to non-human objects, animals, or abstract ideas. It enhances imagery by making descriptions more relatable and vivid.

Examples of personification:

- "The wind whispered through the trees."
- "The city never sleeps."
- "The flowers danced in the breeze."

Key features of personification:

- Human attributes assigned to non-human entities.
- Used to evoke emotion or create atmosphere.

- Common in poetry and descriptive writing.

How to Identify Simile, Metaphor, and Personification in Passages

Identifying these devices requires careful reading and attention to language nuances. Here are practical steps and tips:

Step 1: Read the Passage Carefully

- Read the passage slowly and multiple times.
- Look for colorful or unusual descriptions.
- Pay attention to phrases that stand out or seem metaphorical.

Step 2: Look for Signal Words and Phrases

- Similes: Look for "like" or "as" connecting two ideas.
- Metaphors: Look for statements where one thing is described as another without explicit comparison words.
- Personification: Look for human actions, qualities, or feelings attributed to non-human things.

Step 3: Analyze the Context

- Consider what the author is trying to convey.
- Determine if the description is literal or figurative.
- Ask yourself, "Is this a direct comparison, an implied one, or giving human qualities to an object?"

Step 4: Practice with Examples

Use sample passages to practice identification, then compare your analysis with explanations.

Examples of Identifying Literary Devices in Passages

Let's examine some passages to illustrate how to identify similes, metaphors, and personification.

Example 1: Simile Passage

"Her eyes sparkled like stars in the night sky."

- Signal word: "like."
- Type: Simile.
- Why: The comparison between her eyes and stars is explicit, using "like."

Example 2: Metaphor Passage

"The world is a canvas, painted with dreams and colors."

- Signal: No "like" or "as."
- Type: Metaphor.
- Why: The world is directly equated to a canvas, suggesting it's a space for creativity.

Example 3: Personification Passage

"The old house groaned and whispered in the wind."

- Signal words: "groaned" and "whispered."
- Type: Personification.
- Why: Non-human objects (the house) are described as performing human actions.

Strategies to Enhance Your Ability to Identify Literary Devices

To become proficient at recognizing similes, metaphors, and personification passages, consider these strategies:

1. Expand Your Literary Vocabulary

- Familiarize yourself with common figurative language terms.
- Recognize synonyms and related expressions.

2. Practice Active Reading

- Annotate texts by underlining or highlighting potential devices.
- Write notes about what each device adds to the passage.

3. Use Context Clues

- Understand the overall tone and mood.
- Identify whether descriptions are literal or figurative.

4. Analyze the Author's Purpose

- Consider why the author chose to use a particular device.
- Reflect on how it enhances the imagery or meaning.

5. Engage with Diverse Texts

- Read poetry, prose, and descriptive writing regularly.
- Different genres often employ these devices differently.

Importance of Identifying Simile, Metaphor, and Personification in Literature

Recognizing these literary devices enriches your reading experience in several ways:

- Deepens Understanding: Reveals underlying themes and emotions.
- Enhances Appreciation: Appreciates the craft and creativity of authors.
- Improves Critical Thinking: Analyzes how language shapes meaning.
- Aids in Writing: Helps craft more vivid and engaging descriptions.

Conclusion

Mastering the skill to **identify simile, metaphor, personification passage** is essential for anyone looking to deepen their literary analysis. By understanding the definitions, recognizing signal words, analyzing context, and practicing consistently, you will become adept at spotting these devices in any text. Remember, these tools are not just stylistic embellishments; they are powerful means of conveying meaning, emotion, and imagery.

Whether you're studying for exams, teaching students, or simply enjoying literature more fully, honing this skill will undoubtedly enhance your engagement and appreciation of language's richness. Keep practicing, stay curious, and let the language of literature open new worlds for you.

Identify Simile, Metaphor, Personification Passage: An Expert Guide to Literary Devices

Understanding the rich tapestry of literary devices is essential for appreciating and analyzing

complex texts. Among these devices, similes, metaphors, and personification stand out as powerful tools that writers use to evoke vivid imagery, convey abstract ideas, and engage readers on an emotional level. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore what each of these devices entails, how to identify them within passages, and why they are vital to literary analysis. Whether you are a student, teacher, or literature enthusiast, mastering the recognition of these devices will elevate your appreciation of written works.

Understanding the Core Literary Devices

Before delving into identification strategies, it's crucial to understand what similes, metaphors, and personification are, including their definitions, functions, and examples.

Simile

Definition:

A simile is a figure of speech that directly compares two unlike things using connecting words such as like, as, resembles, or than. Its purpose is to make descriptions more vivid or to highlight particular qualities by drawing a clear comparison.

Function:

Similes serve to create clear, relatable imagery. They often evoke sensory impressions, making abstract or complex ideas accessible by linking them to familiar concepts.

Examples:

- "Her smile was like sunshine on a cloudy day."
- "He fought as fiercely as a lion."
- "The night was as dark as coal."

Identification Tips:

- Look for phrases that compare two things explicitly with words like like or as.
- The comparison is direct and usually easy to spot because of the connecting words.

Metaphor

Definition:

A metaphor is a figure of speech that describes one thing as if it were another, implying a symbolic or figurative equivalence without using comparative words like like or as. It often suggests a deeper or more complex relationship.

Function:

Metaphors convey layered meanings, evoke strong imagery, and often serve to encapsulate themes or character traits succinctly. They can add depth, emphasizing the qualities of a subject by equating it with something else.

Examples:

- "Time is a thief."
- "He is a shining star in our team."
- "The world is a stage."

Identification Tips:

- Look for statements where one thing is described as another, without comparison words.
- Consider whether the phrase implies symbolic meaning or a deeper connection.
- If the phrase suggests a literal equivalence?"X is Y"?it?s likely a metaphor.

Personification

Definition:

Personification attributes human qualities, emotions, or intentions to inanimate objects, animals, or abstract ideas.

Function:

This device helps animate descriptions, making scenes or concepts more relatable and engaging. It often introduces emotional resonance or emphasis, fostering a stronger connection between the reader and the subject.

Examples:

- "The wind whispered through the trees."

- "The city never sleeps."
- "Justice is blind."

Identification Tips:

- Look for descriptions where non-human entities are given human actions, feelings, or characteristics.
- Phrases that attribute thinking, speaking, feeling, or acting to objects or ideas often contain personification.

Strategies for Identifying Similes, Metaphors, and Personification in Passages

Recognizing these devices requires keen reading, contextual awareness, and sometimes, a bit of interpretive skill. Here are detailed strategies to help you identify each within a passage.

Step 1: Read Carefully and Annotate

- Read the passage slowly, marking phrases that seem to evoke vivid imagery or imply comparisons.
- Highlight or underline sentences that use descriptive language.

Step 2: Look for Comparative Words

- For similes, identify phrases that explicitly compare two unlike things using like, as, or similar connectors.
 - Example: "Her voice was like a melody." (Simile)
- For metaphors, find statements that equate one thing with another directly, without comparison words.
 - Example: "Her voice was a melody." (Metaphor)
- For personification, find descriptions where non-human entities are described as performing human actions or possessing human qualities.
 - Example: "The stars winked at us."

Step 3: Consider the Context and Meaning

- Ask yourself: Does the phrase compare two unlike things explicitly or implicitly?

- Does it attribute human qualities to non-human subjects?
- Is the phrase suggesting symbolic meaning or a literal description?

Step 4: Confirm the Literary Device

- Simile: Presence of like, as, or similar words connecting two entities.
- Metaphor: Direct statement of identity, e.g., "X is Y," implying symbolic or figurative equivalence.
- Personification: Non-human entities performing human actions or having human feelings.

Examples and Analysis of Literary Devices in Passage

Let's analyze a sample passage to demonstrate the identification process:

"The city's streets were alive, whispering secrets as the wind danced through alleyways. The old clock tower, a silent sentinel, watched over the bustling market, its hands stubbornly refusing to move. Shadows stretched like lazy cats basking in the afternoon sun, and the tired buildings seemed to yawn as they settled into the night."

Identification process:

- "Whispering secrets" ? Personification: The streets are given the human ability to whisper.
- "Wind danced" ? Personification: The wind is described as dancing, attributing a human action.
- "Shadows stretched like lazy cats" ? Simile: Shadows are compared to lazy cats using like.
- "Buildings seemed to yawn" ? Personification: Buildings are given the human action of yawning, suggesting tiredness or settling into night.

This passage employs all three devices to create a lively, engaging scene filled with vivid imagery.

Why Recognizing These Devices Matters in Literary Analysis

Understanding similes, metaphors, and personification enriches the reader's interpretive skills and enhances appreciation for a writer's craft. Here's why identifying these devices is vital:

- Reveals Themes and Symbols: Metaphors often encapsulate core themes, providing insight into underlying messages.
- Enhances Imagery: Similes and personification evoke sensory experiences, making descriptions more memorable and impactful.
- Unveils Tone and Mood: The choice of devices influences the emotional tone—whether

whimsical, ominous, or hopeful.

- Supports Critical Analysis: Recognizing these devices enables more nuanced essays and discussions about a text's language and style.

Common Challenges and Tips for Mastery

While recognizing these devices might seem straightforward, several challenges can arise:

- Writers often blend devices or use subtle language.
- Some metaphors or personifications are deeply embedded and require contextual understanding.
- Overanalyzing can lead to misidentification.

Tips for mastery:

- Practice with diverse texts, from poetry to prose.
- Keep a personal journal of examples you encounter.
- Discuss passages with peers or mentors to deepen understanding.
- Use literary guides or annotations to confirm interpretations.

Conclusion

Mastering the ability to identify similes, metaphors, and personification passages is a cornerstone of literary literacy. These devices are not mere stylistic flourishes—they are fundamental tools that shape the way writers communicate complex ideas, evoke emotions, and craft memorable imagery. By understanding their definitions, functions, and identification strategies, readers can unlock deeper layers of meaning in any text. Whether analyzing poetry, prose, or speeches, recognizing these devices enhances both appreciation and critical thinking, allowing you to see literature not just as words on a page but as a vibrant, imaginative dialogue between writer and reader.

Happy analyzing!

Question What is the difference between a simile and a metaphor in a passage? A simile compares two things using 'like' or 'as', such as 'bright as the sun,' while a metaphor directly states that one thing is another, like 'time is a thief.' How can I identify personification in a passage? Look for descriptions where non-human objects or animals are given human qualities or actions, such as 'the wind whispered through the trees.' Why is it important to recognize figurative language like similes, metaphors, and personification? Recognizing these devices helps deepen understanding of the author's tone, mood, and imagery, making the passage more vivid and meaningful. What are

some common clues that indicate a passage contains a metaphor? Look for statements that equate two unlike things without using 'like' or 'as,' suggesting a symbolic or figurative comparison. Can a passage contain both personification and similes? How do I identify them together? Yes, a passage can have both. Identify personification by noting non-human qualities attributed to objects, and spot similes by looking for 'like' or 'as' comparisons. How does personification enhance the imagery in a literary passage? Personification gives life to inanimate objects, making descriptions more engaging and relatable, thereby enhancing the reader's emotional connection. What strategies can help me quickly identify figurative language in a passage during reading? Look for words like 'like,' 'as,' or verbs that suggest action for similes, metaphors, and personification, and pay attention to descriptions that seem imaginative or symbolic.

Related keywords: literary devices, figurative language, analysis, text interpretation, imagery, symbolism, literary analysis, poetic devices, narrative techniques, literary passage

Passage

Understanding the Concept of Passage

Passage is a versatile term that holds significance across various contexts, from literature and architecture to travel and navigation. At its core, a passage often refers to a route, a segment of a journey, or a section of text. Its multifaceted nature makes it an essential concept in both everyday language and specialized fields. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the different definitions, types, and uses of a passage, emphasizing its importance in communication, travel, and design.

Defining Passage in Different Contexts

1. Passage in Literature and Writing

In literature, a **passage** refers to a specific excerpt or segment taken from a larger body of text, such as a novel, poem, or article. Writers and editors often analyze passages to highlight themes, stylistic elements, or for comprehension purposes. Passages serve as critical tools in teaching language skills, testing reading comprehension, or illustrating particular points.

2. Passage in Architecture and Design

Architecturally, a **passage** is a corridor, hallway, or walkway that facilitates movement within a building or between spaces. It can also refer to a narrow street or pathway that connects different

areas, often found in historic districts or urban planning.

3. Passage in Travel and Navigation

In the realm of travel, a **passage** often denotes a route or pathway that allows passage from one location to another. This could be a mountain pass, a sea passage, or a corridor through a forest. Such passages are crucial for transportation, exploration, and trade.

4. Passage in Music and Art

Although less common, the term can also describe a segment within a piece of music or art, such as a musical passage or a section of a painting that guides the viewer's eye through the artwork.

The Significance of Passage in Different Fields

Importance in Literature and Education

- **Enhances comprehension:** Selecting meaningful passages helps readers understand complex ideas.
- **Develops analytical skills:** Analyzing passages fosters critical thinking and interpretation.
- **Supports language learning:** Practice with passages improves vocabulary and reading fluency.

Role in Architecture and Urban Planning

- **Facilitates movement:** Well-designed passages improve traffic flow within buildings and cities.
- **Defines space:** Passages create boundaries and connections between different areas.
- **Enhances aesthetics:** Architectural passages contribute to the visual appeal and functionality of structures.

Significance in Travel and Navigation

- **Enables exploration:** Passages such as mountain passes open up remote regions for exploration and settlement.
- **Facilitates trade:** Oceanic passages like the Strait of Gibraltar are vital trade routes.
- **Ensures safety:** Navigable passages reduce risks associated with travel through challenging terrains.

Types of Passages and Their Characteristics

1. Literary Passages

Typically selected for analysis, literary passages vary in length and complexity. They often contain rich language, themes, and stylistic devices that serve educational or interpretative purposes.

2. Architectural Passages

- **Hallways:** Indoor passages connecting rooms within a building.
- **Corridors:** Long, narrow passages often found in institutional buildings.
- **Walkways:** Exterior passages, such as bridges or footpaths.

3. Natural Passages

- **Mountain passes:** Narrow routes through mountain ranges, e.g., Khyber Pass.
- **Sea passages:** Navigable waterways like the Torres Strait.
- **Forest paths:** Trails used for hiking or transportation.

4. Technological and Digital Passages

In the digital realm, passages can refer to segments of data transmission, such as passages within a code or data pipeline that facilitate information flow.

Choosing and Designing Effective Passages

Design Principles for Architectural Passages

Designing passages in buildings and urban spaces requires careful consideration of several factors:

- **Safety:** Adequate lighting, clear signage, and unobstructed pathways.
- **Accessibility:** Features like ramps and wide corridors for all users.
- **Flow:** Minimizing congestion and ensuring smooth movement.
- **Aesthetics:** Integrating design elements that enhance visual appeal.

Creating Engaging Passage in Literature and Media

In storytelling, passages should be crafted to evoke emotion or highlight pivotal moments. Tips

include:

- Using vivid language and sensory details.
- Varying sentence length to create rhythm.
- Ensuring clarity and coherence for the reader.

Famous Passages and Their Cultural Significance

Throughout history, certain passages have gained fame due to their historical, literary, or cultural impact. Examples include:

- **The Passage of the Dead:** A significant route in ancient civilizations.
- **The Passage of the Red Sea:** A biblical event symbolizing liberation.
- **Literary Passages in Classics:** Excerpts from works like Shakespeare or Homer that have shaped literature.

Understanding these passages offers insight into historical events, cultural values, and artistic expression.

Conclusion

From the corridors within buildings to the excerpts in a book, the concept of **passage** encompasses a wide array of meanings and applications. Its importance in facilitating movement, communication, and understanding cannot be overstated. Whether designing a functional architectural feature, analyzing a literary excerpt, or exploring new territories, passages serve as vital connectors, bridging gaps and guiding us through complex landscapes. Recognizing the significance of passages in various fields enhances our appreciation of their role in everyday life and specialized disciplines alike.

Passage is a versatile term that traverses disciplines, cultures, and contexts, embodying notions of movement, transition, and journey. From its linguistic roots to its metaphorical applications in literature, art, architecture, and even modern technology, the concept of passage resonates with the fundamental human experience of change and progression. This comprehensive exploration delves into the multiple facets of passage, examining its historical significance, symbolic meanings, practical applications, and contemporary interpretations.

Understanding the Concept of Passage: Definition and Origins

Defining Passage

At its core, passage refers to the act or process of moving from one place to another, or the route taken during such movement. It can denote physical movement—such as crossing a river—or more abstract transitions, like passing through a phase in life or a period in history. In essence, passage encapsulates both tangible and intangible journeys, serving as a bridge between states, locations, or conditions.

Etymology and Historical Roots

The word "passage" originates from the Latin *passare*, meaning "to step or go beyond." Over centuries, its usage expanded to encompass various forms of movement, transition, and even textual or musical segments. In medieval Europe, "passage" often referred to a short extract from a text or a segment of a larger work, highlighting its role in delineating parts of a whole.

The Symbolic Significance of Passage in Culture and Literature

Passage as a Metaphor for Life's Transitions

Throughout history and across cultures, passage has served as a potent metaphor for life's inevitable transitions. Birth, adolescence, adulthood, aging, and death are all considered passages—phases that define the human experience. Literature frequently employs this motif to explore themes of growth, loss, and renewal.

Notable Literary Examples

- The "Passage" in Literature: Many authors use the concept of passage to symbolize personal transformation. For example, in Virginia Woolf's works, characters often undergo internal passages—mental and emotional journeys—that mark significant moments of change.
- Rites of Passage: Anthropologists describe rites of passage as ceremonies marking the transition from one social status to another (e.g., coming-of-age rituals). These passages serve to reinforce societal structures and individual identity.

Symbolism in Art and Architecture

- Archways and Doorways: Architecturally, passageways such as doorways, corridors, and arches symbolize thresholds—points of transition between different spaces or states of being.
- The Passage in Visual Arts: Artists often depict figures moving through spaces or moments of transition, emphasizing the fluidity between different realms or realities.

Physical and Practical Aspects of Passage

Transportation and Infrastructure

Passage is central to the development of transportation networks and urban planning. Roads, bridges, tunnels, and corridors facilitate movement, commerce, and cultural exchange.

- Historical Development: From ancient trade routes like the Silk Road to modern high-speed rail networks, passages have shaped civilizations by enabling migration and economic growth.
- Design Considerations: Engineers and planners consider safety, efficiency, and accessibility in designing passageways, ensuring they serve diverse populations and purposes.

Passage in Navigation and Exploration

Historically, explorers sought passages?such as the Northwest Passage?to connect distant regions, opening new frontiers for trade and colonization. These endeavors often involved significant risks but yielded profound geopolitical and economic consequences.

Passing Through Physical Barriers

In certain contexts, passages involve overcoming obstacles?mountains, rivers, or political borders?highlighting resilience and adaptability in human endeavors.

Contemporary Interpretations and Applications of Passage

Passage in Technology and Digital Media

In the digital age, the concept of passage extends into virtual realms.

- Data Passage: The movement of information across networks, servers, and devices is akin to a digital passage, emphasizing speed and security.
- User Experience Design: Navigating websites or applications involves designed passages?menus, links, and interfaces?that guide users seamlessly through content.

Passage in Modern Literature and Film

Contemporary storytelling frequently explores physical and metaphorical passages.

- Journey Narratives: Films and novels often depict characters on physical journeys that mirror internal growth or societal change.

- Time Passages: The depiction of eras, historical shifts, or aging reflects societal transitions, emphasizing continuity and change.

Psychological and Emotional Passages

Psychologists view emotional transitions?such as grief, recovery, or personal development?as passages. Recognizing and navigating these passages is crucial for mental health and resilience.

Challenges and Controversies Surrounding Passage

Barriers and Obstacles

Not all passages are smooth or accessible. Physical barriers like natural disasters or political conflicts can impede movement. Social inequalities may restrict access to certain passages, leading to marginalization or exclusion.

Ethical Considerations

The idea of passage also raises ethical questions, especially in contexts like migration or refugee movements. Debates center around rights, sovereignty, and humanitarian responsibilities.

Environmental Impact

Constructing or expanding passageways?roads, bridges, tunnels?has ecological consequences. Balancing development with environmental preservation remains a pressing challenge.

Future Perspectives on Passage

Innovations in Transportation

Emerging technologies?such as hyperloop systems, autonomous vehicles, and space travel?promise to redefine the concept of passage, making it faster, safer, and more expansive.

Virtual Passages and Digital Realms

As virtual reality and augmented reality technologies evolve, digital passages will become more immersive, allowing users to traverse simulated environments, bridging physical and digital worlds.

Societal and Cultural Shifts

Globalization and increased mobility are expanding the scope of passage, fostering multicultural

exchanges but also raising questions about identity and belonging.

Conclusion: The Enduring Power of Passage

From ancient pathways carved through mountains to the intangible journeys within human consciousness, passage remains a fundamental component of existence. Its significance transcends mere movement, embodying transitions that define personal identities, societal structures, and cultural expressions. As humanity advances technologically and culturally, the ways we conceive, construct, and experience passages will continue to evolve, reflecting our innate desire to move forward, explore new frontiers, and embrace change. Understanding the multifaceted nature of passage enriches our appreciation of life's continuous flow and the perpetual voyage of human history.

In summary, passage is more than just a route or a moment in transit; it is a symbol of transition, growth, and possibility. Whether physical or metaphorical, passages challenge us to navigate change, overcome obstacles, and emerge transformed, making them an intrinsic part of the human journey.

Question What is the definition of a passage in literature? In literature, a passage refers to a specific excerpt or segment of text from a larger work, often analyzed for its content, style, or meaning. **Answer** How can I improve my reading comprehension of lengthy passages? To enhance comprehension, practice active reading by highlighting key points, annotating margins, summarizing sections, and asking questions about the passage's main ideas. What are common types of passages used in standardized tests? Standardized tests often include literary passages, scientific articles, historical excerpts, and workplace-related texts to assess reading skills across different contexts. How do I identify the main idea in a passage? Look for recurring themes, topic sentences, and concluding statements that summarize the key point the author is conveying in the passage. What skills are essential for analyzing a passage effectively? Critical thinking, vocabulary comprehension, inference making, identifying tone and purpose, and summarization are crucial skills for passage analysis. Can a passage have multiple interpretations? Yes, especially in literature and complex texts, a passage can be interpreted in various ways depending on the reader's perspective and analytical approach. How important is context when understanding a passage? Context is vital as it provides background information that helps clarify meanings, author intentions, and the overall significance of the passage. What strategies can help in summarizing a passage? Identify the main points, eliminate unnecessary details, paraphrase key ideas, and condense the information into a concise summary. How can technology assist in analyzing passages? Tools like digital annotation apps, text analysis software, and online comprehension resources can help break down and understand passages more effectively. What is the significance of a passage in academic writing? Passages in academic writing serve to support arguments, provide evidence, illustrate concepts, or present data, thereby strengthening the overall thesis.

Related keywords: tunnel, corridor, hallway, pathway, route, passageway, aisle, conduit, channel, corridor

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