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### **Rhetorical Devices**

1. In the beginning of "Letter from a Birmingham Jail [King, Jr.]", King states, "Just as the prophets of the eighth century B.C. left their villages and carried their "thus saith the Lord" far beyond the boundaries of their home towns, and just as the Apostle Paul left his village of Tarsus and carried the gospel of Jesus Christ to the far corners of the Greco Roman world, so am I compelled to carry the gospel of freedom beyond my own home town." (King Jr., pg 1). This statement from the letter serves as an example of a simile, or a comparison of two unlike things, using "like", "as", or "than". In this simile, King is comparing his purpose and calling of carrying out "the gospel of freedom" throughout his own city and town, and to other areas in the world, to the prophets of the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. spreading their "thus saith the Lord" beliefs and encouraging others to engage in it. He also compares his strong desire to fulfill his calling all throughout the world to Apostle Paul, carrying "the gospel of Jesus Christ", beyond where he first engaged in and learned about it. All in all, King compares himself to the prophets and Apostle Paul, when deciding to fulfill his purpose and calling, and wanting everyone to experience freedom, regardless of where they were in the world.
2. King states, "The nations of Asia and Africa are moving with jetlike speed toward gaining political independence, but we still creep at horse and buggy pace toward gaining

a cup of coffee at a lunch counter.” (King Jr., pg 3). This quotation represents King’s usage of a metaphor, which is a comparison of two unlike things without using the words, “like” or “as”. In this metaphor, King is comparing Asia and Africa’s progress towards obtaining political independence, to the speed of a jet. He is essentially saying that Asia and Africa are quickly approaching the point in which they can have that political independence, which is why he compares it to the speed of a jet, because jets move fast. King then goes on to compare the rate at which African Americans are able to progress towards having coffee at a lunch counter, to the speed of horses and buggies. In this comparison, he is basically saying that it is taking a long time for African Americans to be able to even consider sitting at a lunch counter drinking coffee, being an actual reality.