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### The Use of Metaphor in King's "I Have a Dream"

Rhetoric is a language designed to persuade, motivate, and inform. It helps readers understand what writers want to express and the meaning behind it. For example, metaphor can create a more imaginative figure of speech and description of something. It can add a more complex and detailed description that gives the reader a more in-depth experience. In King's speech metaphor was used widely.

The first metaphor I want to discuss is King compares freedom and justice to an oasis, oppression, and injustice to sweltering heat. King mentions Mississippi, as the worse place where Africa Americans were discriminated against. Not just Mississippi, I think it could indicate all the states in the South. Heat is not only used to describe temperature, which is unbearable for most people, but it also means the conflict between justice and injustice is triggering and getting worse. Oasis is a fertile or green area in the middle of a desert where water is. It stands for hope. Eventually, King believed that conflicts need to resolve peacefully. Every Africa American will live their life with equality and peacefulness.

King compares racial inequality to the jangling discords of our nation and describes equality as a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. In an orchestra, instruments should play their own part simultaneously. Otherwise, it will be a total

mess. King indicates that our nation is not unified. It can harm us all. To fundamentally resolve the issue, we must eliminate racial injustice, and treat each other like family members. No race is superior to the others.

Another place of metaphor is he compares poverty to the lonely island of poverty, and material prosperity to a vast ocean. Africa Americans are living on an island of poverty, which means that they were forced to be isolated from society and surrounded by loneliness and helplessness. No one is willing to reach out or rescue them. However, the vast ocean of material prosperity is so close. They must strive for their freedom. I like the metaphor used in this sentence because it puts me into black people's situation and makes me think what if I was stranded on an uninhabited island. Desperation could be the only feeling I have.

The last one I found is King compares the anger of the black to sweltering summer heat and compares freedom and equality to invigorating Autumn. From the timeline of all four seasons, Autumn comes right after the summer. I believe that King is trying to remind all Africa Americans. The dawn will eventually come after the darkness. The long period of frustrations and unbearable heat from summer will eventually disappear until Autumn comes. Autumn is the harvest season, and every Africa American is eager to harvest freedom and equality, but they must put in all their efforts for it. Facts prove that King is right. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 evicted the sweltering summer heat.

In conclusion, rhetoric gives the magical power of King's speech and makes it more vivid and understandable. He pictured the dream of all the black people to the

world. From reading the speech, I learned many techniques. It was helpful for my writing in the future.