Burnt Tongue as Simile

“Words are the first step we take to turn intentions into reality”, declares American author Chuck Palahniuk.

**Simile**: A direct comparison using like or as.

Example: That simile is like a dead ferret.

This is also an example of burnt tongue.

**Burnt tongue**: a way of saying something, but saying it wrong, twisting it to slow down the reader. Forcing the reader to read close, maybe read twice, not just skim along a surface of abstract images, short-cut adverbs, and clichés.

Example: “ I moved through the days like a severed head that finishes a sentence." - Amy Hemple *“The Harvest”*

This is also an example of simile. Writers work similes into every type of writing. You can use it in persuasive.

Example: In an argument over dress codes:

“Dress codes restrict girls more than boys. Our bodies become a punishment. Because we are made to cover up, more attention is drawn to that sexualization, like telling people to look away from the burning house; like putting a blanket over a dead body after a car crash. People know what’s there and they want to look even more, once it’s covered up.”

Now let’s practice burnt tongue with these examples:

1. She was as cute as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. She was as busy as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Life is like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. I lie bed like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. I sat in the chair like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. We walked to class as if we were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. He ran down the field like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_