

Sonnet 34 by Edmund Spenser

Like as a ship, that through the ocean wide,
By conduct of some star, doth make her way,
Whenas a storm hath dimmed her trusty guide,
Out of her course doth wander far astray:
So I, whose star, that wont with her bright ray
Me to direct, with clouds is overcast,
Do wander now, in darkness and dismay,
Through hidden perils round about me placed;
Yet hope I well that, when this storm is past,
My Helice, the loadstar of my life,
Will shine again, and look on me at last,
With lovely light to clear my cloudy grief.
Till then I wander careful, comfortless,
In secret sorrow, and sad pensiveness.

Like as a Ship, Summary: Spenser uses the analogy of a ship losing its way, during a storm, to convey the separation between him and his beloved. A ship travelling through a large ocean, with no land in sight, uses the stars to guide the ship or him (personification), but when the stormy clouds block the star's light, the ship will be left astray.

Like as a Ship, Theme: The main purpose behind writing this poem is to reach the land and also to reach the correct way with his beloved.

Figures of speech in Like as a ship

1- **Metaphor:**

Star: is compared with the poet's beloved.

A- The ocean: is compared with life itself.

"Like as a ship, that through the ocean wide,"

B- Clouds, storms and perils: are compared to life and love problems.

*Me to direct, with clouds is overcast,
Do wander now, in darkness and dismay,
Through hidden perils round about me placed;
Yet hope I well that, when this storm is past,*

C- Landing: is love again.

2- **Simile:** we have two words "like" and "as".

"Like as a ship, that through the ocean wide,"

3- **Personification:** the ship and the star are personified to have human qualities.

*Yet hope I well that, when this storm is past,
My Helice, the loadstar of my life,
Will shine again, and look on me at last,
With lovely light to clear my cloudy grief.*

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