Devil’s Arithmetic Chapter 2

In Depth Focus: Literary Elements

Authors tend to use different literary elements in literature to help the reader visualize what is happening. Two examples of literary elements are **simile** and **metaphor.** A simile compares two different things using like or as, while a metaphor compares two different things without using like or as.

**Simile**: Her *eyes* were like *diamonds*. The comparison is between the eyes and diamonds.

**Metaphor:** *He* was a bull in the *ring*. The comparison is between the bull and the ring.

In chapter two, there are two similes and a metaphor being used. Identify what literary element it being used, and explain why the author used these comparisons.

“Across the screen marched old photos of Nazi concentration camp victims, *corpses stacked like cordwood*, and dead-eyed survivors.” (8).

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“When she’d been younger, the five-digit number on his arm had fascinated her. *It was a dark blue, very much like a stain.*” (9).

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