Metaphors

Understanding figurative language, particularly metaphors, are the key to understanding Shakespeare!
Hamlet: What have you, my good friends, deserved at the hands of Fortune that she sends you to prison hither?

Guildenstern: Prison, my lord?

Hamlet: Denmark's a prison.

Rosencrantz: Then is the world one.

Hamlet: Why then, 'tis none to you, for there is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so. To me, it is a prison.

1. What is happening here? What do you notice?
"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."

"A good conscience is a continual Christmas."

Baby, you’re a firework.

I am titanium.

2. What is happening here that is similar to what happened in the Hamlet “prison” dialogue?
3. Vocab

Figurative Language— when you describe something by comparing it with something else

Connotative— meanings, emotions, ideas that may be connected with that word

Metaphor — a comparison where one thing is another thing
Ophelia  Do you doubt that?

Laertes  For Hamlet, and the trifling of his favor;
        Hold it in a fashion and a toy in blood,
        A violet in the youth of primy nature,
        Forward, not permanent, sweet, not lasting.
        The perfume and suppliance of a minute,
        No more.

4. What two things are being compared? What does this metaphor show?
King          O speak of that! That do I long to hear!

Polonius       Give first admittance to th’ ambassadors.
               My news shall be the fruit to that great feast.

5. What two things are being compared? What does the metaphor show?
Hamlet: Why, look you now, how unworthy a thing you make of me! You would play upon me, you would seem to know my stops, you would pluck out the heart of my mystery, you would sound me from my lowest note to the top of my compass; and there is much music, excellent voice, in this little organ, yet cannot you make it speak. 'Sblood, do you think I am easier to be played on than a pipe? Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret me, you cannot play upon.