Metaphor and Similes in Literature: A Challenge

You know that **metaphors** and **similes** compare unlike things and that a **simile** uses “like” or “as” in the comparison. It is relatively easy to identify the difference between a **metaphor** and a **simile** when they are straightforward. But, can you identify more complicated versions from literature?

**Exercise:**
Determine if the literary text is a metaphor or a simile. Write M or S on the line provided. Then, explain what is being compared.

_____ Hope is the thing with feathers, / that perches in the soul, / and sings the tune—without the words, / and never stops at all. (Emily Dickenson)

_____ I wandered lonely as a cloud / that floats on high over vale and hill. / When all at once I saw a crowd / a host of golden daffodils. (William Wordsworth)

_____ I shall be telling this with a sigh / somewhere ages and ages hence. / Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, / I took the one less traveled by, / and that has made all the difference. (Robert Frost)

_____ Oh, my love’s like a red, red rose / that’s newly sprung in June; / Oh, my love’s like a melody / that’s sweetly played in June.
ANSWERS--Metaphor and Similes in Literature: A Challenge

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___M____ Hope is the thing with feathers, / that perches in the soul, / and sings the tune—without the words, / and never stops at all. (Emily Dickenson)

*Hope is compared to a bird—a thing with feathers. It lives in the soul and sings Without stopping. So, hope is something that never stops and reminds you it’s there.*

___S____ I wandered lonely as a cloud / that floats on high over vale and hill.
    / When all at once I saw a crowd / a host of golden daffodils. (William Wordsworth)

*The person is compared to a lonely cloud that is floating in isolation.*

___M___ I shall be telling this with a sigh / somewhere ages and ages hence.
    / Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, / I took the one less traveled by, / and that has made all the difference. (Robert Frost)

*A decision made by the speaker is compared to choosing between two roads—two Paths. The choice has made a difference—the decision made a difference in life.*

___S____ Oh, my love’s like a red, red rose / that’s newly sprung in June; /
      Oh, my love’s like a melody / that’s sweetly played in June.

*The speaker’s love is compared to a red rose and also to a melody. He is saying that His lover is young and sweet—like a new red rose or a melody.*