An extended metaphor means that an author exploits a single metaphor or analogy at length, rather than in a single sentence or instance.

**DIRECTIONS:** The story below develops an extended metaphor. Read the story. Underline every place that the metaphor appears. Then, on the lines below, briefly explain the meaning of the metaphor.

**MRS. BAKER BIRTHS A BOOK**

Mrs. Baker had an idea for a story. The idea gestated for nine months. In the meantime, Mrs. Baker nested. She straightened up her office. She cleaned up the files on her computer. She browsed freelancer websites for someone who might design a book cover. She imagined herself on T.V. talk shows and giving radio interviews.

“How is your writing coming?” a friend asked.

“It’s coming along fine,” Mrs. Baker said. “Except that I haven’t actually started writing yet.”

Her friend was surprised. “Why not?” she asked.

“I guess I’m afraid,” Mrs. Baker said. “And I’m not sure I really know what to do!”

“What you need is a midwife,” her friend told her, “to help you bring your book into the world.”

Mrs. Baker’s friend recommended a ghostwriter, and Mrs. Baker called her. Over the course of nine months, she told the ghostwriter about her idea for the book. Every Monday morning, the ghostwriter delivered another chapter to Mrs. Baker for review. Mrs. Baker marveled to see how her baby grew. Finally, the last chapter arrived and the long months of waiting were over. Mrs. Baker’s book had been born!