Synecdoche and Metonymy

Synecdoche: A part signifies the whole. Sometimes, the whole signifies the part.

Examples: “Threads” for “clothes”

“Wheels” for “car”

“Hands” for “manual laborers”

Metonymy: The substitution of the name of an object closely associated with a word for the word itself.

Examples: “Crown” for the monarch

“Pen” for written word

\*\*Note: Some consider synecdoche to be a metonymy. Therefore, examples can be sometimes hard to distinguish. Use the above definitions to guide you.\*\*

Exercises

Directions: Please read each statement. Underline the synecdoche or metonymy. On the line, write S for synecdoche and M for metonymy.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1. We have a lot of mouths to feed.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. “The pen is mightier than the sword.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Canada won the hockey game.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Use your head to solve the problem.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. The White House did not want to comment.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. What is his native tongue?

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. The IRS is auditing me? Great. All I need is a couple of suits arriving at my door.

On the back, create or find 5 metonymies and 5 synechoches. List them.