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Sommario/riassunto	By first examining the origins of ecphrasis as a rhetorical trope, as well as its association with simile, the author provides an historical context on which to base a discussion of Ovid's own use of the device. Consideration is given to recent theoretical approaches to the subject, as well as to a selection of ancient texts that may have influenced Ovid's work. After this, a more in-depth examination of relevant passages within the Metamorphoses is undertaken. The author concludes by consid...