Things come alive: answers

What your child practised: spotting personification (giving things human actions or feelings), finding the human words, and explaining what it makes us picture.

Page 1 · Warm up

The sun **peeped** · the kettle **sang** · the leaves **danced**

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check that the thing isn't a person and the action is something people do, and that it matches how the thing really moves or sounds.

Page 2 · A. Tick the personification

Tick **2, 4 and 6**.
1 and 3: dogs really bark and blackbirds really sing.
5: Sam is a person, so laughing is literal.

Page 3 · B. Thing and human words

1. **fire**: hungry, gobbled · 2. **stars**: winked
3. **storm**: angry, punched · 4. **chair**: groaned

Page 3 · C. Fits the mood

Calm beach: **kissed** · Scary night: **clawed** · Happy morning: **smiled**

Page 3 · D. Your own

Answers will vary, e.g. **The rain drummed its fingers on the roof. The lonely moon gazed down at the empty streets.** Rain needs an action; the moon needs a feeling (lonely, proud, shy…).

Page 3 · Challenge

No. The moon is the **thing** being personified. The personification words are **jealous** (a human feeling) and **sulked** (a human action). They make us picture a moon that is grumpy and hiding.

Watch out for

- **Animals doing animal things**, like a dog barking. Ask, "Do dogs really do that?" Personification is a **human** action or feeling.
- **Picking the thing instead of the action** ("door" instead of "groaned"). Ask, "Which word is something a person would do?"
- **Reading it literally**, picturing flowers with real legs. Ask, "How does the thing really move? What does the human word help us see?"

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Talking kitchen:** what would the toaster, fridge and kettle say if they could talk? Give each a human mood.
- **Weather report:** describe today's weather with personification ("the wind is in a bad mood").
- **In the game:** Chapter 5, Effect on the reader: how figurative language makes us see and feel.