Name _____ Date _____

Things come alive

Personification makes things act and feel like people.

1 Learn



Personification gives a thing that isn't a person (an object, the weather, an animal) **human actions or feelings**. It brings the thing to life.



"The old door groaned as it opened."

The thing: **door** | Human action: **groaned**

Doors can't really groan: people do, when they're tired or fed up. So we picture a slow, creaky, heavy door that seems to complain.

Worked example: "The wind whispered through the trees."

1. **What's the thing?** The **wind**.
2. **What's the human action or feeling? Whispered**. Only people whisper, so it's personification.
3. **What do we picture?** A soft, gentle sound, as if the wind were telling the trees a secret.

Flip's tip: animals doing normal animal things isn't personification. "The dog **barked**" is literal. "The cat **frowned** at the rain" is personification, because frowning is something people do.

Warm up: underline the human action word in each sentence.

The sun peeped over the hills.	The kettle sang on the hob.	The leaves danced in the wind.

Grown-ups: ask "Who usually does that, a person or a thing?" Then "So what does it make us picture?" Encourage acting out the human action, then saying how the thing really moves or sounds.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Window watch

You need: a window to look out of, this sheet and a pencil.

1. Look out of the window together. Choose three things: clouds, a tree, a gate, the rain, a car.
2. Watch or listen: how does each one **really** move or sound?
3. Give it a **human action** that matches, like "the clouds are **racing**" or "the gate is **grumbling**". Act it out!
4. Write each one as a sentence.

Thing I saw	How it really moves or sounds	My personification sentence

Grown-ups: the best personification matches how the thing really behaves: slow clouds might "stroll", fast ones "race". Ask, "Why did you choose that action?"

3 Practise

A. Tick each sentence that uses **personification**.

- ☐ 1. The dog barked at the postman.
- ☐ 2. The flowers nodded in the breeze.
- ☐ 3. A blackbird sang in the hedge.
- ☐ 4. My alarm clock shouted at me to get up.
- ☐ 5. Sam laughed at the joke.
- ☐ 6. The old car coughed up the hill.

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B. Draw a ring round the **thing**. Underline the **human** action or feeling words.

1. The hungry fire gobbled up the logs.
2. The stars winked at us.
3. The angry storm punched the windows.
4. The chair groaned when Grandad sat down.

C. Ring the human action that **fits the mood**.

A calm beach: The waves **kissed** **attacked** the sand.

A scary night: The branches **clawed** **tickled** at my window.

A happy morning: The sun **glared** **smiled** on the garden.

D. Write your own personification.

Give the **rain** a human action.

Give the **moon** a human feeling.

Challenge

Ava says, "In 'The jealous moon sulked behind a cloud', the personification word is 'moon'." Is she right? Explain.

I can… Tick when you can.

- [ ] spot when a thing is given a human action or feeling
- [ ] find the human action word, not just the thing
- [ ] explain what personification makes us picture