

What's included?



4 part workbook – over 20 pages



Personification examples in context



Reading passages & poems



Comprehensive tasks to write & analyze



Explanation of literary technique

Personification: Part I Name: _____ Date: _____

Identifying Personification

YOUR task! →

1. Underline the personification.
2. Identify the non-human thing being described.
3. Identify the human action or quality it has been given.

	Non-human thing	Human quality
1. The autumn leaves danced across the pavement.	The autumn leaves	danced
2. The moon peeked through a gap in the clouds.	The moon	peeked
3. The waves chased us along the beach.	The waves	chased
4. The rusty gate complained as I pushed it open.	The rusty gate	complained
5. The tiny flame danced on top of the candle.	The tiny flame	danced
6. The old house stared down at us from the hill.	The old house	stared

Analyze it! → The lonely moon followed us all the way home.

What has been personified?	
What human action or quality has it been given?	
What does this description make you imagine?	
Why might the writer describe the moon as "lonely"?	

Personification: Part I Name: _____ Date: _____

Which Description is Best?

YOUR task! →

Personification creates different effects depending on the context.

Read each situation. Circle the most effective personification. Explain your thinking.

STRONG PERSONIFICATION SHOULD

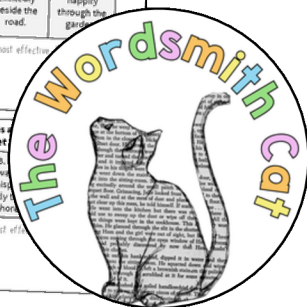
- ✓ make sense
- ✓ create a clear mental image
- ✓ fit the setting
- ✓ contribute to the mood

1. A powerful storm is approaching.		
A. The storm tiptoed quietly toward the town.	B. The storm charged angrily toward the town.	C. The storm smiled politely at the town.
Why is this the most effective description?		

2. An old house has been abandoned for years.		
A. The house stared silently across the empty garden.	B. The house giggled excitedly beside the road.	C. The house skipped happily through the garden.
Why is this the most effective description?		

3. A fire is spreading quickly through dry wood.		
A. The flames greedily devoured the branches.	B. The flames politely greeted the branches.	C. The flames slept beside the branches.
Why is this the most effective description?		

4. Gentle waves are quiet.		
A. The waves screamed at the sand.	B. The waves whispered softly to the shore.	C. The waves danced playfully on the sand.
Why is this the most effective description?		



What's included?

Part 1

Introduction to Personification

Personification: Part 1 Name: _____ Date: _____

personification

Personification is a technique writers use when they give human qualities to non-human objects. This can be human characteristics, actions, or emotions.

Example: The wind whispered through the trees.
The wind cannot really whisper, so the writer gives the wind a human action to make it more interesting.

YOUR TURN: The flowers lifted their faces toward the sun.
The flowers cannot really lift their faces, so the writer gives them a human action to make it more interesting.

Writers use personification to...

- Create vivid images
- Bring settings and objects to life
- Create a particular mood
- Show movement in an interesting way
- Make descriptions more memorable
- Make non-human things seem like characters

POETRY: The sun smiled down on the garden.
The sun cannot really smile, so the writer gives it a human action to make it more interesting.

PLACES: The old house watched as time flew by.
The house cannot really watch, so the writer gives it a human action to make it more interesting.

Which Description is Best?

YOUR TASK: Personification creates different effects depending on the context. Read each situation. Circle the most effective personification. Explain your thinking.

1. A powerful storm is approaching.

A. The storm loomed angrily toward the town.
B. The storm charged angrily toward the town.
C. The storm smiled, playfully at the town.

Why is this the most effective description?

2. An old house has been abandoned for years.

A. The house stared silently across the empty garden.
B. The house giggled excitedly beside the road.
C. The house skipped happily through the garden.

Why is this the most effective description?

3. A fire is spreading quickly through dry wood.

A. The flames greedily devoured the branches.
B. The flames politely greeted the branches.
C. The flames slept beside the branches.

Why is this the most effective description?

4. Gentle waves are moving onto a quiet beach.

A. The waves screamed at the sand.
B. The waves whispered softly to the shore.
C. The waves argued with the beach.

Why is this the most effective description?

Part 2

Reading Passages

Personification: Part 2 Name: _____ Date: _____

personification

Writers use several examples of personification together to bring settings and objects to life. Read examples in different genres.

Examples: The forest was slowly waking. Golden light filtered through the trees, stretching across the ground. High above, the branches told the morning sky while their leaves felt the breeze.

Nearby, a narrow stream chattered hurriedly over smooth stones. Tiny fish faces toward the sun, and the grass drooped at morning dew.

The old oak stood proudly over the watching another day begin. As the birdsong, the last shadows retreat undergrowth, making way for the new.

Choose an example: What is being personified? What human action or quality has it been given? What does the description help you imagine?

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Reading Passage

THE HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET

Everyone in town knew the house was empty. At least, that was what everyone said. As Eli approached the rusted front gate, the house **stared down at him through its dark windows**. It stood alone at the end of the street, surrounded by weeds and twisted trees. The afternoon sun was disappearing, and long shadows **stretched their fingers across the garden**.

Eli stopped. This had seemed like a much better idea when his friends were standing beside him. The gate **complained loudly** as he pushed it open. Beyond it, a cracked stone path disappeared beneath the weeds. They **grabbed at his ankles**, as though trying to stop him from going any farther.

"Very funny," Eli muttered.

He wasn't sure whether he was talking to his friends, the weeds, or himself. A cold breeze swept through the garden. The branches above him **whispered warnings to one another**.

Eli looked back at the gate. He could still leave. Instead, he climbed the steps. The wooden porch **grazed beneath his feet**. The front door waited silently at the top, its faded paint peeling away in strips. Eli reached for the handle.

Before his finger touched it, the door slowly swung inward. He froze. Darkness filled the hallway beyond. Behind him, the wind suddenly slammed the gate shut. Quickly, Eli spun around.

The house seemed to **hold its breath**. For several seconds, nothing moved. Then, somewhere inside, a floorboard creaked. Eli stared into the darkness, his pulse quickening. Maybe the house wasn't as empty as everyone thought.

Why is Eli nervous as he approaches the house? What happens when Eli reaches the front door? What happens to the gate after the front door opens?

Part 3

Writing Activities

Personification: Part 3 Name: _____ Date: _____

personification

Personification is a popular language device in poetry. This language feature helps create mood and tone, while flowing with the rhythm of a poem.

Example: In the forest, the trees can talk. The stars can wink and walk.

There is a river that sings a song As it gently flows along.

The sun rises with a cheeky grin As the wind pushes the clouds for him.

The raindrops tap on the ground Creating a soothing, calming sound.

The moon wears a silver crown And watches over the sleepy town.

YOUR TASK: Personification can make something non-human seem almost like a character. In "The Moon," the poet gives the moon several different human actions and qualities. Investigate and analyze some examples.

What does the word "pecked" suggest?

What human feature is the moon given? What is the writer actually describing?

What does the word "pecked" suggest?

What human feature is the moon given? What is the writer actually describing?

Does this create a comforting or intimidating feeling?

What human feature is the moon given? What does the word "watched" make the moon seem like?

What mood does this personification create?

What human feature is the moon given? What does the word "winked" make the moon seem like?

Writing Challenge

YOUR TASK:

1. Choose a setting.
2. Use personification to create a meaningful piece of writing where the setting feels alive.

Setting

☐ An Abandoned House - You enter a house that has been empty for many years.

☐ The Mysterious Forest - You are walking through a forest when the path suddenly disappears.

☐ The Stormy Coast - You stand on a cliff while a powerful storm approaches from the ocean.

☐ The City at Night - You walk through a busy city after the sun has set.

☐ The Winter Morning - You wake to discover that snow has covered everything outside.

Things to think about:

- What could watch, stare, blink, or smile?
- What could whisper, complain, or sing?
- What could chase, creep, or march?
- What could seem angry, love, cheerful, impatient, or frightened?
- What personality could you give the setting?

The Wordsmith Cat

Why you'll love it

- ✓ 4 part workbook
 - use 1 part per week = month long unit
- ✓ Teacher reference page & answer key
- ✓ Engaging activities to practice personification
- ✓ Reading passages and poems for students to analyze
- ✓ No preparation! Ready to print resource



Ways to use this product.

- ✓ ELA lesson or center
- ✓ Test preparation
- ✓ Poetry unit
- ✓ Intervention or small group work
- ✓ Writing workshop
- ✓ Early finisher activity

Personification: Part I Name: _____ Date: _____

Identifying Personification

YOUR task! →

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6.	The old house stared down at us from the hill.	Non-human thing	Human quality

Analyze it → The lonely moon followed us all the way home.

What has been personified?	
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What does this description make you imagine?	
Why might the writer describe the moon as "lonely"?	



Teach figurative language!

Help students understand language techniques.

Explore and read figurative language in context.

Demonstrate how language devices enhance writing.

Personification: Part I Name: _____ Date: _____

personification

Personification is a technique writers use when they give human qualities to non-human objects. This can be human characteristics, actions, or emotions.

Example: The wind whispered through the trees.

break it apart...

The wind cannot really whisper. **Whispering is a human action.** The personification helps us hear and imagine the wind more clearly.

YOUR TURN! The flowers break it apart...

Writers use personification to...

- Create vivid images
- Bring settings and objects to life
- Create a particular mood
- Show movement in an interesting way
- Make descriptions more memorable
- Make things like characters

Personification, or Not? Name: _____ Date: _____

YOUR TASK! Not every description of a non-human thing is personification. Personification gives something non-human an action, thought, feeling, or quality. Read each sentence and decide if it is an example of **personification**, or a **description**.

Sentence	Personification	Description
The leaves danced across the footpath.		
The angry waves attacked the shore.		
The sun was hot and bright.		
The stars winked at us from the night sky.		
The fire burned the dry branches.		
The waves crashed against the rocks.		
The old car drove slowly along the road.		
The leaves fell from the tree.		

EXPLAIN IT!

Which sentence uses personification?	The rain fell heavily outside the window. The rain hammered angrily against the window.
How do you know?	

WRITE IT!

Write a literal sentence describing the wind.	
Now rewrite it using personification.	
What human action or quality did you add?	

