

# Personification

Aim: Choose and use words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination.

## Definition

Personification is a figure of speech in which an object, an idea or an animal is given human qualities.

If you can imagine an object doing actions or behaving like a person, that's personification.

## Activity

1. Match the object to the human quality to complete the sentence.

Object		Human quality
The candle flame		nodded in the wind.
The chocolate cake in the fridge		crept into the classroom.
The party		danced in the dark.
The wallflowers		sang a lonely song.
Along with the teacher, silence		was calling her name.
The wind		died as soon as he left.

2. What effect does the use of personification have on the reader?

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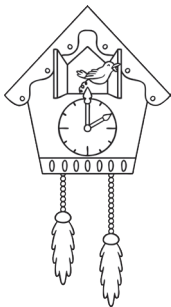
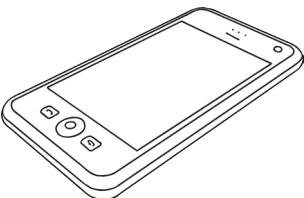
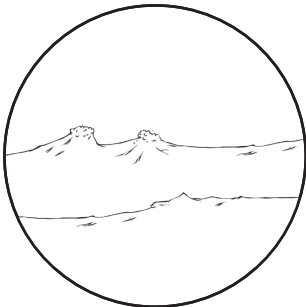
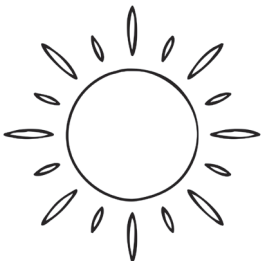

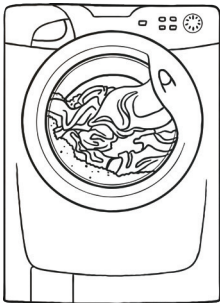
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**3. Use a picture and choose a verb to create your own sentence using personification to describe the object. Use the best verb to create the image that you want to put in the reader's mind.**

For example:

The summer sun hugged the meadow.

	sang		watched	
hugged			screached	
	yelled			
	smiled			swallowed

#### 4. Challenge

**Choose your own objects and verbs and personify the object to create an image for the reader.**

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Along with the teacher, silence		was calling her name.
The wind		died as soon as he left.

2. Once you have matched the parts of the sentence, underline the object and underline the verb in each sentence.

3. What effect does the use of personification have on the reader?

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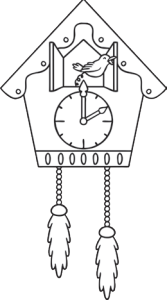
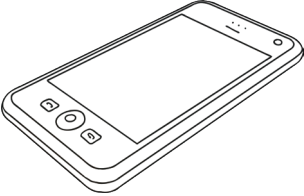
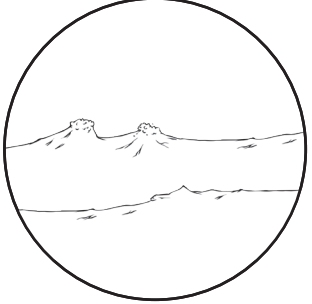
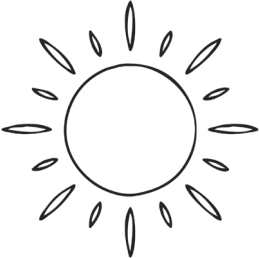

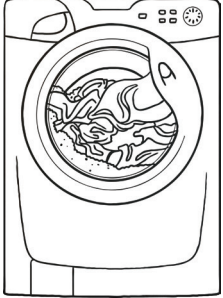
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**4. Use a picture and choose a verb to create your own sentence using personification to describe the object. Use the best verb to create the image that you want to put in the reader's mind.**

For example:

The summer sun hugged the meadow.

	sang		watched	
hugged			screeched	
	yelled			
	smiled			
				swallowed

**Challenge:**

**Can you use more than one verb to personify the objects in each sentence to create the image you want for the reader?**

**Use the same pictures or choose your own objects to describe.**

For example:

The tiny boat danced wildly in the waves as the sails pleaded for calm.

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# Personification

Aim: Use and evaluate how figurative language has an impact on the reader.

## Definition

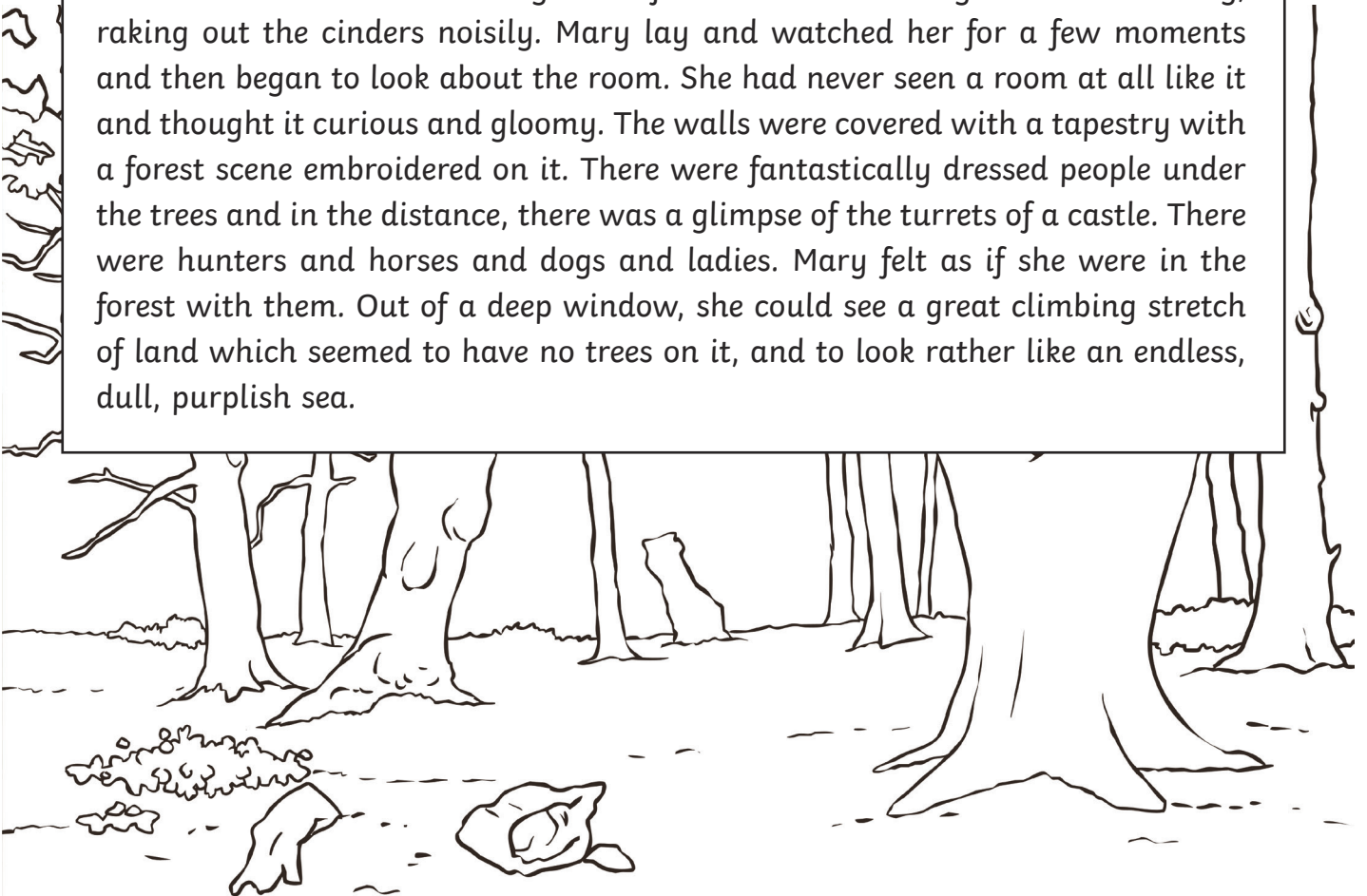
Personification is a figure of speech in which an object, an idea or an animal is given human qualities.

If you can imagine an object doing actions or behaving like a person, that's personification.

## Activity

**1. Read the passage below and improve it by adding personification to the objects. Choose and use personification carefully: Too much, and the writing is difficult to take seriously and inappropriate personification makes it hard to create the desired effect for the reader.**

When she opened her eyes in the morning, it was because a young housemaid had come into her room to light the fire and was kneeling on the hearthrug, raking out the cinders noisily. Mary lay and watched her for a few moments and then began to look about the room. She had never seen a room at all like it and thought it curious and gloomy. The walls were covered with a tapestry with a forest scene embroidered on it. There were fantastically dressed people under the trees and in the distance, there was a glimpse of the turrets of a castle. There were hunters and horses and dogs and ladies. Mary felt as if she were in the forest with them. Out of a deep window, she could see a great climbing stretch of land which seemed to have no trees on it, and to look rather like an endless, dull, purplish sea.



For example;

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

**Challenge: Write a short piece of narrative and include personification where appropriate to make the chosen impact on the reader. Pair-share your work and evaluate your successes.**

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**Has the writer successfully maintained the intended impact?  
How? Record your evaluation.**

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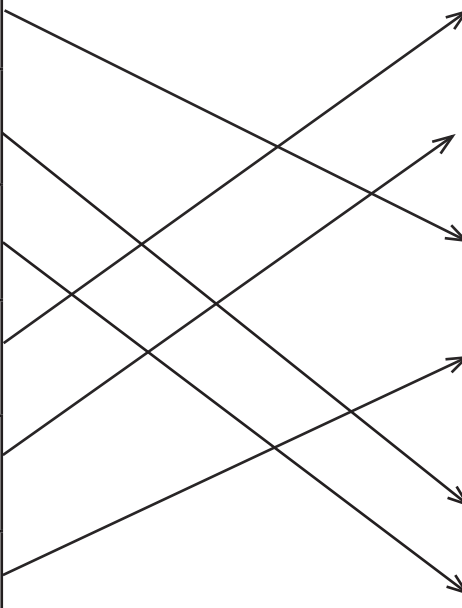
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# Personification Answers

1.

Object		Human quality
The candle flame		nodded in the wind.
The chocolate cake in the fridge		crept into the classroom.
The party		danced in the dark.
The wallflowers		sang a lonely song.
Along with the teacher, silence		was calling her name.
The wind		died as soon as he left.

2. What effect does the use of personification have on the reader?

Writers can help the reader make an image of something in their minds when they use personification. Using a human characteristic for an object that is easy to recognise is an effective way to create a specific impact on the reader.

3. Use a picture and choose a verb to create your own sentence using personification to describe the object. Use the best verb to create the image that you want to put in the reader's mind.

Various appropriate responses using the pictures and verbs given.

4. Challenge. Choose your own objects and verbs and personify the object to create an image for the reader.

Various appropriate responses using the pictures and verbs chosen.



# Personification Answers

1.

Object		Human quality
The <u>candle flame</u>		<u>nodded</u> in the wind.
The <u>chocolate cake</u> in the fridge		<u>crept</u> into the classroom.
The <u>party</u>		<u>danced</u> in the dark.
The <u>wallflowers</u>		<u>sang</u> a lonely song.
Along with the teacher, <u>silence</u>		<u>was calling</u> her name.
The <u>wind</u>		<u>died</u> as soon as he left.

- Once you have matched the parts of the sentence, underline the object and underline the verb in each sentence.
- What effect does the use of personification have on the reader?  
Writers can help the reader make an image of something in their minds when they use personification. Using a human characteristic for an object that is easy to recognise is an effective way to create a specific impact on the reader.
- Use a picture and choose a verb to create your own sentence using personification to describe the object. Use the best verb to create the image that you want to put in the reader's mind.  
Various appropriate responses using the pictures and verbs given.

Challenge:

Can you use more than one verb to personify the objects in each sentence to create the image you want for the reader?

Various appropriate responses using the pictures and verbs given.

# Personification Answers

1. Read the passage below and improve it by adding personification to the objects.

Choose and use personification carefully: Too much, and the writing is difficult to take seriously and inappropriate personification makes it hard to create the desired effect for the reader.

**Various appropriate responses following an atmosphere of apprehension, uncertainty and wonder using the objects and verbs given in the text.**

2. Underline the words and phrases that you have added for effect.

**Objects (nouns) should be underlined with personification verbs to create the desired image.**

3. Share your work with a buddy. Talk about your work. Can you describe the effect your improvements have on the reader? Does it create the desired effect? Record your ideas.

**Pair-share talk responses recorded for evaluation. The responses should include identification of objects and personified verbs that appropriately create and maintain the atmosphere of apprehension, uncertainty and wonder at Mary being in a new environment.**

Challenge: Write a short piece of narrative and include personification where appropriate to make the chosen impact on the reader. Pair-share your work and evaluate your successes.

**Independent work will generate appropriately personified narrative.**

Has the writer successfully maintained the intended impact? How?

**Pupils will be able to identify a consistent and appropriate theme throughout the narrative to convey the writer's intentions, for example; humour, fear, adventure, danger etc.**