

Personification Makes *Things* Almost Human—Part I (7–8A)

personification: to give human qualities to a thing or creature that is not human. Writers can personify persons or things through the use of personal pronouns such as *she* and *he* or by describing them as having human emotions, appearance, or abilities. FOR EXAMPLE, “The house waited patiently for its family to return, missing the sound and bustle of its normal life.”

Directions: After reading the following examples, tell what is being personified and the phrases used to show personification. Be able to point out the specific words that influenced your decision.

A. April, April,
 Laugh thy girlish laughter;
Then, the moment after,
Weep thy girlish tears . . . — “Song” by William Watson

(1) _____ is being personified.

(2) Two phrases that show this personification are:

a. _____

b. _____

B. I heard the trailing garments of the Night
 Sweep through her marble halls;
I saw her sable skirts all fringed with light
 from the celestial walls. — “Hymn to the Night” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

(1) _____ is being personified.

(2) Three phrases that show this personification are:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

(7-8A continued)

C. When Freedom, from her mountain height,
Unfurled her standard to the air,
She tore the azure robe of night,
And set the stars of glory there! — “The American Flag” by Joseph Rodman Drake

(1) _____ is being personified.

(2) Three phrases that show this personification are:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

(3) The phrase “azure robe” seems to personify _____.

D. The merry brown hares came leaping
Over the crest of the hill,
Where the clover and corn lay sleeping,
Under the moonlight still. — “A Rough Rhyme on a Rough Matter” by Charles Kingsley

(1) The first example of personification is _____.

(2) This is indicated by the poet’s use of _____.

(3) The second example of personification is _____.

(4) This is indicated by the poet’s use of _____.

Personification Makes *Things* Almost Human—Part II (7–8B)

personification: to give human qualities to a thing or creature that is not human. Writers can personify persons or things through the use of personal pronouns such as *she* and *he* or by describing them as having human emotions, appearance, or abilities. FOR EXAMPLE, “The house waited patiently for its family to return, missing the sound and bustle of its normal life.”

Directions: After reading the following examples, tell what is being personified and the phrases used to show personification. Be able to point out the specific words that influenced your decision.

A. Wee, modest, crimson-tippe´d flow’r,
Thou’s met me in an evil hour . . . — “To a Mountain Daisy” by Robert Burns

- (1) _____ is being personified.
- (2) This is shown by the poet’s use of _____ and _____.

B. The toad beneath the harrow knows
Exactly where each tooth-point goes,
The butterfly upon the road
Preaches contentment to that toad. — “Pagett M.P.” by Rudyard Kipling

- (1) The first example of personification is _____.
- (2) This is indicated by the poet’s use of _____.
- (3) The second example of personification is _____.
- (4) This is indicated by the poet’s use of _____.

C. But four young Oysters hurried up,
All eager for the treat;
Their coats were brushed, their faces washed,
Their shoes were clean and neat—
And this was odd, because, you know,
They hadn’t any feet. — from “Through the Looking Glass” by Lewis Carroll

- (1) _____ are being personified.
- (2) Five phrases that show this personification are:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____

D. Shame is Pride’s cloak. — William Blake

- (1) _____ is being personified.
- (2) This is shown by the poet’s having _____.
- (3) What other figure of speech does this illustrate? _____.