



Personification with Frog and Toad



Do Frogs wear clothes? Do Toads speak English? When you go outside and search around for frogs and toads, do you look around for little houses fronted with porches and filled with furniture? Of course not. Giving these attributes to Frog and Toad is a literary device called personification. Personification is a type of figurative language that an author uses to give human qualities to a creature or object which normally doesn't have them. Making animals speak, wear clothes, and live in houses is not the only form of personification. Saying that a car shudders, a tree dances in the wind, or an alarm clock screams, is also personification.

Here are some examples:

The wind whistled through the leaves. (Wind can't whistle; it doesn't have a mouth.)

That piece of pie is calling my name. (Pie can't call your name. It can't call anything.)

The flowers nodded in the breeze. (Flowers don't have heads, so they can't nod.)

Even though you can see from these examples that the objects in them don't have the natural ability to do what the sentence says they are doing, you can still understand what the sentence means. Personification is used to describe an action and give the reader a better idea of what is happening. Because the reader is human, he or she can imagine just what the personified object is doing.

On the next page, there are several sentences containing personification. Your job is to circle the word or words within each sentence that makes it a personification. Then, on the lines at the bottom, write a few personification sentences of your own.



Circle the word or words within each sentence that makes it a personification:

1. Thunder grumbled in the dark sky.
2. The engine coughed twice before it started.
3. The sun lifted its sleepy head to start the day.
4. The trees wore their scarlet, gold, and rust ball gowns in honor of autumn.
5. Silence crept into the room.
6. Fog glided across the meadow.
7. Dewdrops danced in the early morning sunlight.
8. Winter took hold with an icy grip.
9. Clouds pushed each other across a periwinkle sky
10. Weeds stole all the food and starved the flowers.



Now write a few sentences using personification:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Answer Key:

1. Thunder grumbled in the dark sky.
2. The engine coughed twice before it started.
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