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Personification for ocean

Everyone knows what a person is, but do you know what personification is? Personification is a type of metaphor and a common literary tool. It is when you assign the qualities of a person to something that isn't human or that isn't even alive, such as nature or household items. Work through these personification examples to see how well you understand the concept. Suffering green car needing TLC Personification is often found in literature and poetry to help human readers relate to non-human subjects. In this poem, the sunflowers are talking to the famous poet William Blake. They are tired of being outside and tell him that they want to be moved. We know that sunflowers cannot be tired or talk, so Willard uses personification to give them these attributes. "Ah, William, we're weary of weather," said the sunflowers, shining with dew. "Our traveling habits have tired us. Can you give us a room with a view?" They arranged themselves at the window and counted the steps of the sun, and they both took root in the carpet where the topaz tortoises run." This poem brings the beauty and tranquility of nature to life. The daffodils are personified as a crowd of people dancing, while Wordsworth floats like a cloud enjoying the show. "I wandered lonely as a cloudthat floats on high o'er vales and hills,When all at once I saw a crowd,A host, of golden daffodils;Beside the lake, beneath the trees,Fluttering and dancing in the breeze,Continuous as the stars that shineAnd twinkle on the milky way,They stretched in never-ending lineAlong the margin of a bay:Ten thousand saw I at a glance,Tossing their heads in sprightly dance." William Shakespeare uses personification throughout Romeo and Juliet. One example is in Act 2 when Friar Lawrence is picking flowers for his various potions. He says: "The grey-ey'd morn smiles on the frowning night, Check'ring the Eastern clouds with streaks of light." In describing the morning as smiling at the night, he is personifying the morning and establishing a romantic setting for Romeo and Juliet's love to unfold. The following sentences use the personification technique. See if you can identify which part of the word or phrase is the personification. The answers are in the section immediately following the examples. Can you identify what is being personified in each sentence and what human trait or ability it's being given?1. The stars danced playfully in the moonlit sky.2. The run-down house appeared depressed.3. The first rays of morning tiptoed through the meadow.4. She did not realize that opportunity was knocking at her door.5. He did not realize that his last chance was walking out the door.6. The bees played hide and seek with the flowers as they buzzed from one to another.7. The wind howled its mighty objection.8. The snow swaddled the earth like a mother would her infant child.9. The river swallowed the earth as the water continued to rise higher and higher.10. Time flew and before we knew it, it was time for me to go home.11. The ocean waves lashed out at the boat, and the storm continued to brew.12. My computer throws a fit every time I try to use it.13. The thunder grumbled like an old man.14. The flowers waltzed in the gentle breeze.15. Her life passed her by.16. The sun glared down at me from the sky.17. The moon winked at me through the clouds above.18. The wind sang through the meadow.19. The car was suffering and was in need of some TLC.20. At precisely 6:30 AM, my alarm clock sprang to life.21. The window panes were talking as the wind blew through them.22. The ocean danced in the moonlight.23. The words appeared to leap off of the paper as she read the story.24. The phone awakened with a mighty ring.25. The funeral raced by me in a blur. Did you identify the personification in the examples above? The human trait assigned to the subject and the subject of the personification are in bold here. 1. The stars danced playfully in the moonlit sky.2. The run-down house appeared depressed.3. The first rays of morning tiptoed through the meadow.4. She did not realize that opportunity was knocking at her door.5. He did not realize that his last chance was walking out the door.6. The bees played hide and seek with the flowers as they buzzed from one to another.7. The wind howled its mighty objection.8. The snow swaddled the earth like a mother would her infant child.9. The river swallowed the earth as the water continued to rise higher and higher.10. Time flew and before we knew it, it was time for me to go home.11. The ocean waves lashed out at the boat, and the storm continued to brew.12. My computer throws a fit every time I try to use it.13. The thunder grumbled like an old man.14. The flowers waltzed in the gentle breeze.15. Her life wandered past.16. The sun glared down at me from the sky.17. The moon winked at me through the clouds above.18. The wind sang through the meadow.19. The car was suffering and was in need of some TLC.20. At precisely 6:30 AM, my alarm clock sprang to life.21. The window panes were talking as the wind blew through them.22. The ocean danced in the moonlight.23. The words leapt off of the paper as she read the story.24. The phone awakened with a mighty ring.25. The funeral raced by me in a blur. Hopefully the first 25 examples gave you some confidence in your ability to spot personification. See if you can find the personification in these next 25 questions.26. While making my way to my car, it appeared to smile at me mischievously.27. The car, painted lime green, raced by screaming for attention.28. The butterflies in the meadow seemed to two-step with one another.29. The waffle jumped up out of the toaster.30. The popcorn leapt out of the bowl.31. When the DVD went on sale, it flew off the shelves.32. I tripped because the curb jumped out in front of me.33. Time creeps up on you.34. The news vied for my attention.35. The fire ran wild.36. The thunder yelled angrily in the distance.37. The tornado ran through town without a care.38. The door protested as it opened slowly.39. The evil tree was lurking in the shadows.40. The tree branch moaned as I swung from it.41. Time marches to the beat of its own drum.42. The storm attacked the town with great rage.43. My life came screeching to a halt.44. The baseball screamed all the way into the outfield.45. The blizzard swallowed the town.46. The tsunami raced towards the coastline.47. The avalanche devoured everything in its path.48. The pistol glared at me from its holster.49. The car beckoned me from across the showroom.50. I could hear Hawaii calling my name. The subject of the personification and the human characteristic it was assigned are both in bold here. How many did you get right this time?26. While making my way to my car, it smiled at me mischievously.27. The car, painted lime green, raced by screaming for attention.28. The butterflies in the meadow seemed to two-step with one another.29. The waffle jumped up out of the toaster.30. The popcorn leapt out of the bowl.31. When the DVD went on sale, it flew off the shelves.32. I tripped because the curb jumped out in front of me.33. Time creeps up on you.34. The news vied for my attention.35. The fire ran wild.36. The thunder yelled angrily in the distance.37. The tornado ran through town without a care.38. The door protested as it opened slowly.39. The evil tree was lurking in the shadows.40. The tree branch moaned as I swung from it.41. Time marches to the beat of its own drum.42. The storm attacked the town with great rage.43. My life came screeching to a halt.44. The baseball screamed all the way into the outfield.45. The blizzard swallowed the town.46. The tsunami raced towards the coastline.47. The avalanche devoured everything in its path.48. The pistol glared at me from its holster.49. The car beckoned me from across the showroom.50. I could hear Hawaii calling my name. There are many reasons for using personification. It can be used as a method of describing something so that others can more easily understand it. It can be used to emphasize a point. It can be used to help paint a picture in your mind. You may even use personification without knowing it. There is often confusion between personification and anthropomorphism. While they are similar, this is a distinct difference. Personification means: "Giving an object or animal characteristics to create interesting imagery." An example of personification would be the nursery rhyme "Hey Diddle Diddle" where "the little dog laughed to see such fun." Anthropomorphism means: "Making an object or animal act and look like they are human." An example of anthropomorphism is Peter Rabbit, a bunny who wears a coat and talks. As seen by the examples above, personification is used to assign human qualities to things that are not human, but it does not make them behave like a human. The purpose of this figurative language is to bring inanimate things to life to better explain them. Writers often use personification to make their writing more vivid and to have the reader understand the object or animal in a better way. Keep having fun with this literary device by checking out humorous examples of personification in poetry. M.S. Counselor Education I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky, And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by, And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking, And a gray mist on the sea's face, and a gray dawn breaking. Read Complete Poem Featured Shared Story Growing up, my father, who was never a sailor, would suddenly come out of a daydream to recite John Masefield's "Sea Fever." I did not have a clue until I went to sea with the U.S. Navy as a... Read complete story Have you ever swam in the ocean? Ever fought against the waves? Have you ever felt its intensity?? Oceans can be quite treacherous and rigid, but once you sink down beneath the water, all is calm and peaceful. In "The Ocean" by Nathaniel Hawthorne, he paints an image of this by illustrating the waters and the men at sea. Men at sea are represented by showing the journey they fought on the Ocean but how after they died they were at peace. By using symbolism, rhyme, and personification, Hawthorne develops a theme in which the ocean can be crazy and wild above the water, but peaceful and calm beneath. Nathaniel Hawthorne was a writer born in New England in the early 1800's. He grew up in Salem, Massachusetts, where his parents had...show more content... Symbolism is found when making reference to the sailors; "calmly the wearied seamen rest" (line 9). Throughout the poem, Hawthorne uses the sailors to symbolize how the sailors have died at sea, which ties back to the theme in which above waters the ocean can be tumultuous and chaotic. Rhyme is also tied into the poem in an ABAB sequence. For example, waves and caves, deep and weep (lines 1-3). Rhyme was an essential tool that the author used to further argue his theme, this also affected the author's voice and rhythm. Personification was used to show that the earth is similar to the feelings humans express, "the earth has guilt and care," (line 13) and "though there be fury on the waves beneath them there is none" (lines 3-4). Hawthorne means the waves are wild, loud, and furious. Waves, however, cannot have fury, that is a human...show more content... Throughout the poem the tone was subtle, however, a claim was still made. Because the speaker in the poem had a calm tone, it left me feeling a sense of displacement. I didn't know whether the author chose to write this poem because it was something he was passionate about, or if it didn't have sufficient meaning. With Hawthorne having ancestors of seamen, his poem could have been a representation of their lives. To me, this poem was quite relatable in the sense that there can be so much commotion above the water, but once you sink down, all is at peace. When surfing the is struggle with, paddling out often fighting the waves, that is if there isn 't a rip to pull you in. Once you ride your wave, you fall back under the water where nothing is fighting or pulling you away. Thinking in perspective and think broadly, people struggle with what 's on the outside; what they look like, how they dress, the people they are around, and what they say. When worrying so much about the outside people often find themselves in chaos or the feeling of being overwhelmed. When people focus on their inside; their beliefs, their morals, love, and passion they feel more at ease with who they are. The ocean could be a symbol for even society in that What is personification anyway? This activity is a great way to teach about this literary device in a fun and creative manner. While bio poems are often about people, by using personification, a bio poem may also be written about an object or thing. In this worksheet, students get creative and write a bio poem about an ocean. If you need more information about personification, check out these references: what is personification? and List of personification examples. What is personification? Here's a quick and simple definition: Personification is a type of figurative language in which non-human things are described as having human attributes, as in the sentence, "The rain poured down on the wedding guests, indifferent to their plans." Describing the rain as "indifferent" is an example of personification, because rain can't be "indifferent," nor can it feel any other human emotion. However, saying that the rain feels indifferent poetically emphasizes the cruel timing of the rain. Personification can help writers to create more vivid descriptions, to make readers see the world in new ways, and to more powerfully capture the human experience of the world (since people really do often interpret the non-human entities of the world as having human traits). Some additional key details about personification: Personification isn't exclusive to the use of human attributes to describe non-human things. If a writer describes a non-human thing as performing a human action, the writer is personifying that thing. The sentence, "The rain mocked the wedding guests' plans", qualifies as personification just as much as the sentence, "The rain was indifferent," does. The word "personification" has another, separate meaning from its function as a literary device. The word can also be used to indicate that someone embodies a certain quality or concept. For instance, some people think that the Queen of England is the personification—or the embodiment—of civility. However, this guide focuses only on personification as a literary device. Personification Pronunciation Here's how to pronounce personification: per-sahn-if-ick-ay-shun Personification Explained Personification is a powerful and widely-used literary tool for several reasons. One reason is that it allows readers to develop a greater sense of relation to and identification with non-human entities. Attributing a human emotion to something inanimate—as in the sentence about "indifferent rain"—can make it much easier to understand and more vivid in the reader's imagination, while at the same time presenting a significantly more complex description than is possible with the use of traditional adjectives like "wet" or "gray". Personifying a Non-Human Thing as a Complete Person Anthropomorphism typically involves bestowing a single human quality upon a non-human thing. For instance, The rain was indifferent to their plans. The waves winked in the sunlight. The wind played hide-and-go-seek among the trees. However, sometimes personification involves referring to a non-human thing as a complete person with many human qualities. Consider the way in which old-fashioned ship captains referred to their vessels as "she," or the way in which Kanye West refers to his beloved city of Chicago as a girl named "Windy." (Scroll down to "Personification in Music" for an analysis of those lyrics.) Both cases count as personification—Kanye asks us to momentarily re-imagine something nonhuman (Chicago) as human, because that way we'll be able to understand that the city has a personality and a soul that make him feel connected to it just as he would feel connected to a romantic partner. Similarly, it was common for sea captains back in the day to casually refer to their ships as "she" in order to convey that they felt as much respect, gratitude, and responsibility for the ships as they would towards a woman they loved. Personification vs. Anthropomorphism Personification is the attribution of human characteristics to a non-human entity for the purpose of creating figurative language and imagery. Anthropomorphism, by contrast, is the literal attribution of human characteristics to animals and other non-human things, often for the purpose of creating a specific type of character: a non-human being that behaves like a human. Winnie the Pooh, the Little Engine that Could, and Simba from the movie The Lion King are all examples of anthropomorphism. The human qualities assigned to these characters are not just figurative ways of describing them, as they are in personification. Rather, in anthropomorphism the non-human entities actually do human things like talking, falling in love, wiggling their eyebrows, and generally behaving like people behave. Winnie the Pooh, the Little Engine that Could, and Simba from The Lion King are not examples of personification. When we use personification, we don't create characters, but instead simply describe non-human things as possessing human characteristics, like in the sentence, "The wind played hide-and-go-seek among the trees." In this case, the wind didn't actually grow arms, legs, and a mouth to count down from twenty. That would be anthropomorphism. Instead, the wind looks and behaves as wind normally does, but through the power of personification the reader can now imagine the wind's movement in a completely new way, because he or she can now compare that movement to the familiar but different movement of playing hide-and-go-seek. Personification Examples Examples of Personification in Literature Writers use personification to create startling or whimsical visual images, which help to make the world of a book or poem all the more vivid in a reader's imagination. Often, authors use personification to describe the hidden lives of objects as a way of calling the reader's attention to the underlying mood, conflicts, or themes of the novel—of which even the characters themselves may not be fully aware. Personification in Virginia Woolf's To the Lighthouse To the Lighthouse takes place in a summer house on the Isle of Skye, off the coast of Scotland. Part 1 of the book describes an eventful summer that the family spends in the house, while Part 2, "Time Passes," describes the passage of the seasons when the family is away from the house. In this example from Part 2, Chapter 2, Woolf describes the summer house in the family's absence: Nothing stirred in the drawing-room or in the dining-room or on the staircase. Only through the rusty hinges and swollen sea-moistened woodwork certain airs, detached from the body of the wind (the house was ramshackle after all) crept round corners and ventured indoors. Almost one might imagine them, as they entered the drawing-room questioning and wondering, would they hang much longer, when would it fall? Then smoothly brushing the walls, they passed on musingly as if asking the red and yellow roses on the wall-paper whether they would fade, and questioning (gently, for there was time at their disposal) the torn letters in the waste-paper basket, the flowers, the books, all of which were now open to them and asking, Were they allies? Were they enemies? How long would they endure? In this passage, Woolf personifies the wind by describing it as though it were a person who, "questioning and wondering," ventures through rooms and creeps around corners, inspecting the family's possessions and "toying with" them. Woolf could easily have written a more straightforward description of the house and the items within it. However, through the use of personification she allows the reader to identify with the wind, and in doing so to discover or "venture into" the empty house as the wind does here, "musingly" and curiously. Personification in Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea The Old Man and the Sea is the story of an unlucky fisherman named Santiago. Santiago has been unable to catch a fish for 84 days, but on the 85th day catches the biggest marlin he has ever seen. Then, on the 86th day, he catches a dolphin (a type of fish; not the ocean mammal) for dinner: Just before it was dark, as they passed a great island of Sargasso weed that heaved and swung in the light sea as though the ocean were making love with something under a yellow blanket, his small line was taken by a dolphin. Hemingway's personification of the ocean as "making love" both captures the rolling nature of the waves and also speaks to the fact that, after his change of luck, Santiago once again sees the ocean as a "partner" full of vitality and teeming with life. Personification in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet In the following passage from Act 2, Scene 2 of Romeo and Juliet, Romeo sneaks into Juliet's garden and catches a glimpse of her on her balcony: But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun. Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon, Who is already sick and pale with grief, That thou, her maid, art far more fair than she. Be not her maid, since she is envious: Her vestal livery is but sick and green And none but fools do wear it; cast it off. Romeo compares Juliet to the sun, and describes the moon as being envious of Juliet's beauty. Romeo's description of the moon as being female—in addition to its having feelings of envy, sickness, and grief—is an example of personification. When he pleads with Juliet, "Be not her maid," he's not only referring to the "jealous moon"—he's also making subtle reference to Diana, the goddess of the moon and virginity (whose devotees were green). Thus, personifying the moon allows Romeo not only to express his wonder at Juliet's "celestial" beauty, but also to communicate his hope that Juliet isn't too chaste to get involved him. Personification in Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter In Chapter 1 of The Scarlet Letter, Hawthorne describes a wild rose bush that grows in front of Salem's gloomy wooden jail. But, on one side of the portal, and rooted almost at the threshold, was a wild rose-bush, covered, in this month of June, with its delicate gems, which might be imagined to offer their fragrance and fragile beauty to the prisoner as he went in, and to the condemned criminal as he came forth to his doom, in token that the deep heart of Nature could pity and be kind to him. In the context of the novel's setting in 17th century Boston, this rose bush, which grows wild in front of an establishment dedicated to enforcing harsh puritan values, symbolizes those elements of human nature that cannot be repressed, no matter how strict a community's moral code may be: desire, fertility, and a love of beauty. By personifying the rosebush as "offering" its blossoms to reflect Nature's pity (Nature is also personified here as having a "heart"), Hawthorne turns the passive coincidence of the rosebush's location into an image of human nature actively resisting its constraints. Examples of Personification in Music Musicians often use personification in their lyrics for the same type of poetic effect that the technique can have in a literary context. However, the musicians who wrote the following songs don't just give non-human entities human attributes, but actually describe the entities as complete people. This more comprehensive, figurative transformation of a thing—in the case of the following examples, a city or a drug—into a person allows the musicians to partially hide the true identity of what the song describes. In some cases, the musician may want to hide the meaning in order to play with language and with the listener's expectations. In others, the musician may do so in order to share an experience that isn't appropriate for a general audience. Personification in Kanye West's "Homecoming" "Homecoming" (Graduation, 2007) is Kanye's ode to his hometown of Chicago, where he moved at the age of three. Instead of praising Chicago directly, West personifies the city by singing about it as though it were a girl named "Windy"—a reference to Chicago's nickname, "The Windy City": I met this girl when I was 3 years old And what I loved most, she had so much soul She said, "Excuse me, lil homie, I know you don't know me But my name is Windy and I like to blow trees"-. And when I grew up, she showed me how to go downtown In the nighttime her face lit up, so astoundin' I told her in my heart is where she'll always be She never messed with entertainers cause they always leave She said, "It felt like they walked and drop on me" Through the use of personification, Kanye creates an enjoyable experience of discovery for the listener, who may in fact believe that the song is about a real girl named Windy until he or she listens more closely to the lyrics. In this case, the use of personification adds a whole new dimension to the song. Personification in The Beatles' "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" Though there is some debate as to the lyrics' true meaning, "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" (Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band, 1967) is widely perceived as a coded reference to LSD: a psychedelic drug that The Beatles experimented with around the time they wrote this song. Assuming that "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" does in fact refer to LSD, it's an excellent example of personification: Picture yourself in a boat on a river With tangerine trees and marmalade skies Somebody calls you, you answer quite slowly A girl with kaleidoscope eyes Cellophane flowers of yellow and green Towering over your head Look for the girl with the sun in her eyes And she's gone Lucy in the sky with diamonds Lucy in the sky with diamonds Lucy in the sky with diamonds Ahhh Personification allows the Beatles to describe their LSD-induced hallucinations—which, they asserted openly, were important to their creative process—in a veiled way, so that only listeners who were clued into that particular drug culture could detect the reference. Why Do Writers Use Personification? Writers use personification to create memorable images with language, allowing readers to experience works of literature more vividly. Depending on the text, however, a writer may have a more specific purpose for using personification. Consider Bluets, by Maggie Nelson, a book made up of short, numbered vignettes in which the author conducts a poetic form of "field research" on her love for the color blue. In the following lines, Nelson wonders if the color blue can help her combat feelings of loss after a recent break-up: 71. I have been trying, for some time now, to find dignity in my loneliness. I have been finding this hard to do. 72. It is easier, of course, to find dignity in one's solitude. Loneliness is solitude with a problem. Can blue solve the problem, or can it at least keep me company within it?—No, not exactly. It cannot love me that way; it has no arms. But sometimes I do feel its presence to be a sort of wink—Here you are again, it says, and so am I. Here, Nelson uses the technique of literary personification to accomplish something she wishes she could do in real life: replace her love for her former partner with her love for the color blue. She acknowledges that a reciprocal love between herself and blue is impossible in reality—"blue" is incapable of "keeping [her] company" because "it has no arms," or isn't human. However, immediately after this acknowledgement she personifies blue, writing that she sometimes feels its presence as a "wink" of acknowledgement. Thus, Nelson uses literary personification to make blue acknowledge her in her writing, as in reality only another lover or person can. Other Helpful Personification Resources The Wikipedia Page on Personification: A straightforward explanation with examples. The Dictionary Definition of Personification: A basic definition and history of the term. The word personification was first used in the mid 1700s. Personification on Vimeo and Youtube: An entertaining video collage about the difference between anthropomorphism and personification. A recording of the Beatles rehearsing "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds."

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