

Planning Personification Poetry

“Dragon Song”

Like a white cloud in springtime, he skids through the sky,
Whistles tunes into valleys, pushes boats with a sigh.
Through the forest he scurries, catching leaves in his wings;
With a rustle of treetops, the Wind Dragon sings.



With a temper so fierce and a beauty so clear,
She sways to a calling that no one can hear.
Pulling treasures like gifts from some faraway shore,
Wild and untamed, hear the Sea Dragon's roar.



With a wing fall as fragile as light on the sea,
She sings of frost shivers and white-gilded trees.
Unshaken, she soars, while the wind whips and blows;
Under sky-splattered starlight, the Moon Dragon glows.



His teeth hide a furnace, spewing ash and bright embers.


His scales dry and charred; a face man remembers.

A flicking, forked tongue licks the sides of a stake;


The Fire Dragon feasts, leaves the world in its wake.



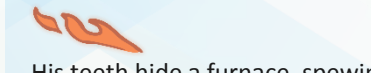
What Is Personification?




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Personification is when a writer gives human qualities or abilities to an object. When a writer treats a non-human object like it's alive, it can help us understand what they're trying to say better.

Can you find examples of personification in the poem?

It is quite easy to believe that the wind could be deliberately pushing boats around and picking up leaves. 'Scurries' describes how quickly the wind can move, and 'sings' and 'whistles' describe the sounds that the wind can make.

The sea could be described as having a 'temper' because it can go from being calm to overturning ships very quickly! The sea picks up objects and leaves them on other sands; waves can often make a sound just like a roar.

Can you explain why the descriptions in the last two verses are so applicable to **fire** and **the moon**?

Choosing a Dragon



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Why do you think the poet has chosen dragons to personify these elements of nature?

Dragons are fantastical creatures. If we are pretending that the forces of nature are real, living creatures, it is useful to describe a creature that no one has ever seen, because we can use our imaginations without limits!

What elements of nature could we describe next?

the sun

the stars

a
mountain

the earth

snow

rain

a desert

a river

Choose one of these, or think of your own subject to personify!

Personify!



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How do we create the language of personification?

The poem describes how each dragon would:

- **move**
- **sound**
- **look**
- **behave**

You could also describe:

- how the dragon might **taste** or **smell** (e.g. snow lands on tongues);
- its **impact** on people or things (e.g. rain helps plants grow);
- when it might **sleep** (e.g. the sun "sleeps" at night).

Which gender pronoun will you use?

Do you feel like your element is male, female or neither?

he

she

it

TASK:

Use the **Planning a Personification Poem Activity Sheet** to create personifying words and phrases for your dragon.

If you find that any of your words and phrases rhyme, colour code them in pairs.

Personify!



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Finally, you need to write your poem in stanzas of four lines each. If you can find any rhyming words in your descriptions, make sure these are at the ends of the lines, and put the rhyming lines next to each other (an AABB pattern).

Share your poem with a partner. Have they covered the way that the dragon would:

- move;
- sound;
- look;
- behave?

Have they made any rhyming pairs? Can you tell what natural element they have written about?

Use your wonderful descriptions to help you draw your dragon using the [Dragon Song Illustration Template Activity Sheet](#). Think about how each part of the dragon would be affected by the natural element.

Dragon Song **Planning a Personification Poem**

What are you personifying? (e.g. the moon, the wind): _____

First, create a list of the things that your element does. For example, the wind pushes over bins, turns umbrellas inside out and helps boats to move. Come up with reasons why your dragon might want to do these things!

Next, create a mind map of the way your dragon would move, sound, look and behave. Make sure that every description links back to the element of nature and use your list to help you.

The way the dragon would move:	The way the dragon would look:	
The way the dragon would sound:	<div>I am personifying</div> <div>_____</div>	The way the dragon would behave:

Do any of your descriptions rhyme with any others? Are there any words that you can swap in so that they rhyme? Colour code your rhyming words.