

## Personification

Giving an inanimate object human feelings or actions.

“The thirsty flowers seemed to reach out and beg for water.”

The flowers can't actually move or beg, but by personifying them, their need is made more human and understandable.

As well as actions, like moving or speaking, personification can also attribute a human feeling to an object.

“The apple sat, proud as punch, at the top of the fruit bowl”

The personification of the ‘proud’ apple, and its prominent position in the fruit bowl makes it seem more appealing.

Without the personification, this would just be a description of a lifeless scene.

Describing objects as if they are people is a way to make sentences more exciting.

In Iain Crichton Smith's short story ‘Home’, he uses personification to describe how a street has changed:

“Instead of small shops, supermarkets were springing up, flexing their huge muscles”

The personification here tells us that the supermarkets are an intimidating addition to the town.

Their “huge muscles” represent their wealth and the power that these big businesses have over smaller rivals, and the fact they are “flexing” tells us they are flaunting this power, or showing off.

The personification paints a striking image, and means the writer can avoid a long explanation of business economics.

Why don't you try bringing your writing to life with personification?

It can really make it sing!