

Personify This!

Pencil/pen/marker	Blank sheet of paper	Coffee or soda	TV
Tree in Winter	Flower	Tie (the kind you wear)	Game System
Baseball hat	Thumbtack	Favorite pair of shoes	VCR
Bumper sticker	Mirror	Ship	Rain
House	Clouds	Chair	Wing
Dryer	Curling Iron	Picture	Table
Water	Hurricane	Flashlight	American Flag
Washing Machine	Gum stuck in a shoe	Computer	Bicycle
Skateboard	Basketball, baseball, golf ball, etc.		Wind
Other ideas? _____			

Cinquain

Line 1- One word to name the subject
Line 2- Adjectives to describe the item
Line 3- Action words to describe the item
Line 4- 4 to 5 word phrase describing the subject.
Line 5- One word that sums it all up (title or synonym for the title.)

Diamante

Line 1- Noun or subject
Line 2- Two adjectives
Line 3- three 'ing' words
Line 4- Four words about the subject
Line 5- Three 'ing' words
Line 6- Two adjectives
Line 7- Synonym for the subject or antonym if you want your poem to shift

What are we three?

Example of a Diamante

The Eye
 Alive and Ready
 Eating Devouring Destroying
 Strong winds rip and tear.
 Raining Hailing Swirling
 Natural yet Evil
 Tempest

Example of a Shifting Diamante

Skeletal
 Dead-like hibernation
 Sleeping Waiting
 Fingers reach for the winter sun
 Reviving Budding Breathing
 Life-like growth
 Alive

Example of a Cinquain

Disgusting!
 Sticky Goopy Dirt-encrusted
 Stretching Spreading Elongating
 Minty freshness distributing everywhere!
 Icky!

Directions for Personify This!

You and your partner will choose an inanimate object and personify it!

- 1) Choose the item you wish to personify. See the box of items on the first page.
- 2) Think of things about that item that you can make living or give human characteristics. A flashlight could have one eye. A VCR could have a mouth, etc. List as many as you can think of.
- 3) Brainstorm as many descriptive words as you can to describe the item. List the words. (Flashlight- silvery, long, heavy, light beam, decorated, plastic, metal, ridges, removable ends, etc.)
- 4) Now, you and your partner must choose if you will write a Cinquain (simple version) or Diamante. See format on the first page.
- 5) Here's the trick.. you can't use the name of the item anywhere in the poem. You have to be so descriptive with your words and personification that the audience can guess what you are writing about. See the example. Do you know what it is? (Diamante= Hurricane. Shifting Diamante= A tree in winter. Cinquain= Gum on bottom of shoe.)
- 6) Once you and your partner have written your poem, decide who will read the poem aloud.

Personification Practice

Pencil/pen/marker	Blank sheet of paper	Coffee or soda	TV
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Other ideas? _____			

1. Take one of the items listed above and decide how you will personify it. Use a different one than you used with your partner!! Then decide, how you will make it seem alive.

2. The object: _____

3. What aspects will you make human? _____

4. What kind of descriptive language will you use? _____

Recap: Personification

Personification is _____

How can it contribute to the mood of a poem? _____

How can it impact the reader? _____

Why would a writer choose to use many poetic devices in their writing?

In the poems we used today, "The Base Stealer," "The Toaster," "Foul Shot," and "Sea Lullaby," which poem's words brought out the strongest emotion in you? Explain.

Recap: Personification Answer Key

Personification is

Making an inanimate (not living thing) seem alive through the use of human/living characteristics

How can it contribute to the mood of a poem?

It can make a poem more powerful by making the object seem real instead of just sitting there and doing nothing. (Accept any reasonable answer.)

How can it impact the reader? By using personification, the writer can make the reader see, hear, taste, touch, and feel the object. It makes the item seem more real to the reader and thus more powerful. (Accept any reasonable answer.)

Why would a writer choose to use many poetic devices in their writing?

Poets use a variety of poetic devices to make a poem more powerful and meaningful.

In the poems we used today, "The Base Stealer," "The Toaster," "Foul Shot," and "Sea Lullaby," which poem's words brought out the strongest emotion in you? Explain.

Student answers will vary, but they should indicate that the word choice was the important aspect.