

Back to Basics Elementary: Personification

We will take a look at personification today as we continue our study of figurative language. What exactly is personification?

Personification is a kind of metaphor where an animal, idea, or thing acts like a person or is described as if it had human thoughts or emotions.

Cartoons and comics use personification a lot. Any movie or book with talking animals or toys is using a type of personification to tell the story.

So personification is just talking stuff or animals?

Not quite.

Have you ever heard someone refer to a car, boat, or gun as “she?” What about saying flames “danced” or leaves “skipped over the ground?” These are all examples of personification as well.

Why do writers use personification?

Sometimes personifying a concept can make it easier to understand. Sometimes it is just to make a story more fun and interesting, and sometimes it is used to make a scary lesson less scary and easier to remember.