

Name: _____

Date: _____

Personification in Literature

Remember that **personification** is a figure of speech in which a nonliving thing is described as if it is living.

Examples:

The flowers bowed their heads in the wind.

The toilet made an angry growling noise.

Read the excerpts from literature and music. On the lines provided, describe what is being personified.

From "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud"

"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 . . .
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance. (William Wordsworth)

From "Good Riddance"

"Time grabs you by the wrist, directs you where to go." (Greenday)

From "Casey at the Bat"

"A straggling few got up to go in deep despair. The rest
Clung to the hope which springs eternal in the human breast;
They thought, "If only Casey could but get a whack at that—
We'd put up even money now, with Casey at the bat." (Ernest Lawrence Thayer)

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From "The Railway Train"

I like to see it lap the miles,
And lick the valleys up,
And stop to feed itself at tanks;
And then, prodigious, step

Around a pile of mountains,
And, supercilious, peer
In shanties, by the sides of roads;
And then a quarry pare (Emily Dickinson)

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Answers--Personification in Literature

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Tossing their heads in sprightly dance. (William Wordsworth)

The daffodils are personified—they are described as a crowd, dancing, and tossing their heads.

From "Good Riddance"

"Time grabs you by the wrist, directs you where to go." (Greenday)

Time is personified—it grabs the person by the wrist and tells him/her where to go.

From "Casey at the Bat"

"A straggling few got up to go in deep despair. The rest

Clung to the hope which springs eternal in the human breast;

They thought, "If only Casey could but get a whack at that—

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Hope is personified—hope is springing in the human breast.

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And then a quarry pare (Emily Dickinson)

A train is personified—it laps the miles, licks the valleys, feeds at tanks, steps

Around mountains, and peers into shanties.
