



April

Poetry Skill: Personification

Standard

Recognize the use of personification

Explore Personification

Explain to students that personification is a device in which human actions and ideas are given to things. Then discuss the examples the wind whispered through the trees and the flames of the fire danced on the wood.

Vocabulary

clouds-gray or white masses of tiny drops of water floating high in the sky

dears-much loved persons or things

sunbeams-rays of sunlight tears-drops of salty water that come from the eye

Summary

In this humorous poem, two clouds bump together, causing rain.

Read the Poem

Introduce the Poem

Lead students in a discussion of what causes rain. Then ask them to listen to a poem that has an interesting way to describe a science concept.

Introduce the Vocabulary

Write the vocabulary words on the board. Have partners alphabetize the words, find the definitions in a dictionary, and record the meanings. Challenge students to write sentences with the words.

During Reading

Invite volunteers to read the poem.

After Reading

Questions

- What causes it to rain in the poem? (Two clouds bump heads, and they cry.)
- 2. What dries the tears? (the sun's sunbeams)
- 3. How are the make-believe events that cause rain like what really happens? (When clouds bump into each other, they make lightning. Clouds that are full of moisture rain.)
- 4. Which words in the poem rhyme? (sky/cry; dears/tears)

Fluency

Point out that the quotation marks mean that someone is talking. Then ask how the sun might talk to some clouds. Encourage pairs of students to take turns reading the quotation with expression.

Develop Oral Language

Invite groups of students to act out the poem as they read.

Writing

Review examples of personification in the poem. Then invite students to write and illustrate their own examples of other sky elements, such as the stars or moon, personified.

Read the Poem

April

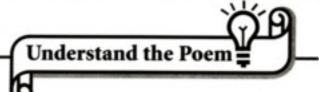
by Anonymous

Two little clouds one April day Went sailing across the sky.

They went so fast that they bumped their heads, And both began to cry.

The big round sun came out and said, "Oh, never mind, my dears, I'll send all my sunbeams down To dry your fallen tears."

April: Assessment



Think about the poem. Then answer the questions. Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

- 1. What dries the tears?
 - A towels
 - ® rainbows
 - © sunbeams
- 2. What happened before the clouds cried?
 - They went sailing.
 - ® The sunbeams came down.
 - The sun came out.
- 3. What is the poet talking about when using the phrase "bumped their heads"?
 - A The clouds moved very fast.
 - B The clouds ran into each other.
 - The clouds ran into a bump.

- 4. The poet wrote this poem to
 - A explain why it rains in a fun way.
 - B tell why people need the sun.
 - explain why people cry.
- 5. The clouds' tears are really
 - A snow.
 - ® ice.
 - © rain.



- "April" is a good name for this poem because
 - April is a rainy time of year.
 - B the sun shines a lot in April.
 - people cry in April.

7. How does the poet feel about rain? How do you know?

Compound Words



A compound word is a word made by putting together two or more words.

Examples:

outside

sidewalk

word in Column B to make a compound word. Use each word only once. Write each new compound word in the box and draw a picture to show its meaning. On another sheet of paper, write a paragraph using at least three of the compound words.

Column A 1. rain	Column B beam	1.
2. over	drops	2.
3. sun	ground	3.
4. thunder	head	4.
5. play	storm	5.



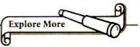
There Once Was a Cowgirl

by Margaret Fetty

There once was a cowgirl named Harriet. Who practiced rope tricks with a lariat. When her horse suddenly stopped, Harriet's arm quickly dropped, And the lariat wrapped around Harriet.



Homographs



Homographs are words that have the same spelling but different meanings. Sometimes they may have different pronunciations. Use words in the sentence to help you choose the correct meaning of a word.

Example: blue Meaning A: a color

Meaning B: feeling sad

Read each sentence. What does the word in dark print mean? Write the letter for the meaning of the word.

W	2	tc	n

Meaning A: to look at

Meaning B: a tool that tells time

- Dan's watch showed the time to be three o'clock.
 - 2. Mrs. Wong likes to watch the birds at the park.

wind

Meaning A: moving air

Meaning B: to turn

- 3. Anna will wind the key to make the toy move.
 - ____ 4. The wind blew the leaves off the tree.

how

Meaning A: to bend forward

Meaning B: a tool that shoots arrows

- 5. People used a bow and arrow to hunt long ago.
- 6. Actors come on stage and bow after the show.



Autumn Song

by Hilda Conkling

I made a ring of leaves On the autumn grass: I was a fairy queen all day. Inside the ring, the wind wore sandals Not to make a noise of going. The caterpillars, like little snow men. Had wound themselves in their winter coats. The hands of the trees were bare

And their fingers fluttered.

I was a gueen of yellow leaves and brown

And the redness of my fairy ring Kept me warm.

For the wind blew near.

Though he made no noise of going,

And I hadn't a close-made wrap

Like the caterpillars.

Even a gueen of fairies can be cold

When summer has forgotten and gone!

Keep me warm, red leaves:

Don't let the frost tiptoe into my ring

On the magic grass!

