

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**SIMILE AND PERSONIFICATION**

Figurative language is not used just for poetry. We use it frequently to add life to our prose, too. The following passage is from Thoreau's *Walden*. See if you can identify the similes and the personifications that Thoreau used to describe the storm.

As I walked home, the storm began. First the wind struck me with the force of a prizefighter's fist. Its claws snatched at my clothes as I bent forward resisting its explosive burst of force. Suddenly I could not breathe. I turned my head gasping as I snatched the air from my lungs like a giant vacuum pump. Finally, I succeeded in reaching the house by walking backwards, all the while feeling the wind thump on my back like a thousand horses straining for the finish line.

1. Find two examples of **similes** in the paragraph.

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Find two examples of **personification** in the paragraph.

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

3. How would this paragraph be different if Thoreau had not used figurative language?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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**PERSONIFICATION**

There are two simple ways to create **personification**. You can give a human tion to a nonhuman object, as in "The flowers dance in the wind." Or you can compare parts of the nonhuman object to parts of the human body: "The tree has branches for arms and leaves for hands."

1. Here is a list of eight human actions. Can you list eight more?

speaks	sings	waltzes	plays
works	dies	laughs	smiles

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Think of four objects or living things from nature and use each with four of the human actions from the list above.

*Example:* The spring birds chattered.

a. _____	c. _____
b. _____	d. _____

3. Now add a simile after each and you'll have a line of poetry.

*Example:* The spring birds chattered like ladies at a tea party.

a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____

4. Think of two things that can have human body parts substituted for their own parts, as in the example of the tree mentioned above. What parts does a clock have that a human body has? Now use the objects you thought of in a line of poetry.

*Example:* The face of Big Ben watches over the city of London.

a. _____
_____
b. _____
_____