Creating Personification

Personification is when we give human characteristics to things or ideas. It allows us to add a human quality objects or ideas. For example, we know cars have four tires, an engine, and a steering wheel, but what happens when a car is personified? Look at the examples:

The car *cried* out for more gas before it went to *sleep* on the side of the road.
The hole punch *chuckles*, paper circles dripping from its *mouth*.
Candles *cry* wax *tears*.
The staple remover *eats* with metal *teeth*.

How do we write personification? Here are a few ways to use it in your writing.

- Use verbs that name human actions.
  - Love *remembers* the good times.
  - Cats *tango* in the streets.
- Write with adjectives that usually describe people.
  - The *embarrassed* clock covered its face with its hands.
  - *Worried* noodles glance at the boiling water.
- Refer to objects or ideas using personal pronouns.
  - I called out to the ocean, and she *waved* back to me.
  - I begged my car, but *he* still wouldn't start.
- Give objects human body parts.
  - The tree stretched its *legs*.
  - Our watches shook *hands*.

TASK

A. To complete this activity, you will personify things, ideas, and qualities by writing a human action next to each object below.

Examples: Dirty clothes got up and walked.
The sun smiles.

1. Oceans _____
2. Waves _____
3. Cars _____
4. Trash _____
5. Math _____
6. Sun _____
7. Homework _____
8. Sound _____
9. House _____
10. Computers _____
11. Eyes _____
12. Machines _____
13. Wheels _____
14. Cell phones _____
15. Moon _____

B. Now, answer the questions Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? about 7-8 of your answers.

Examples: Dirty clothes got up and walked (Where?) <u>into the laundry room</u>.
The sun smiles (When?) <u>in the morning</u>.

C. Finally, choose your favorite example of personification. Continue to write all of the thoughts about that example that you can. After you finish writing, you will have poem containing examples of personification.