Personification

Aim: To learn to identify and create personification

Personification is an imagery technique. Personification compares something _____to something _____ to create an image in the reader's imagination.

Activity 1

Give each of the following machines human characteristics.

Example: printer – the printer chewed the paper and spat it out!

a) car

b) TV

c) train

d) stapler

e) computer

f) lawnmower

Activity 2

Start the following examples of personification in your own words:

a) _____ danced in the wind.

b) _____ jumped off the table.

c) _____ screamed through the trees.

d) _____ broke down.

e) _____ sang away to itself.

f) _____ dribbled into the sink.

Activity 3

Now explain the effects of each of the examples of personification in Activity 2; what images are created?

For example:

a) The effect is that the crisp packet is being blown about by the wind.

Activity 4

1. What event is being described in the poem below?

2. Pick out **four** examples of personification from the poem below, write them into your books and explain their effects.

In the kitchen
After the aimless
Chatter of plates,
The murmuring of the gas,
The chuckle of the water pipes
And the sharp exchanges
Of knives, forks and spoons
Comes the serious quiet
When the sink slowly clears its throat …

e.g.

Example: ‘Chatter of plates’

Effect: The plates are hitting each other gently as they are being washed up and making a noise that sounds like they were talking to each other.

Activity 5

Read 'Cautionary Calender' by Roger McGough.

Cautionary Calendar

Beware January,
His greeting is a grey chill.
Dark stranger. First in the kill.
Get out while you can.

Beware February,
Jolly snowman. But beneath the snow
A grinning skeleton, a scarecrow.
Don't be drawn into that web.

Beware March,
Mad Piper in a many-coloured coat
Who will play a jig then rip your throat.
If you leave home, don't go far.

Beware April,
Who sucks eggs and tramples nests.
From the wind that molests
There is no escape.

Beware May,
Darling scalpel, gall and wormwood.
Scented blossom hides the smell
Of blood. Keep away.

Beware June,
Black lipstick, bruise coloured rouge,
Sirensong and subterfuge.
The wide-eyed crazed hypnotic moon.

For each month of the ‘Cautionary Calender’, fill in the table below.

Month	What person or thing is the month compared to?	What does the person or thing do?	What impression is the poet trying to create?
January			
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			

Activity 6

Write your own poem based on the 'Cautionary Calender' but based on the days of the week. Use personification to create an image of what each day means to you. *Make it as striking and funny as possible!* You can you the grid below to help you plan.

Day	What kind of a day is it to you?	What type of person could the day be?	What will the day do in your poem?
Monday	*e.g. sleepy, grumpy, easy to annoy*	*e.g. a zombie scared of the light*	*e.g. murder people happy to be at work*
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			

Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

Activity 7

Create a PowerPoint presentation with six slides. Each slide needs to contain an example of personification and a relevant image, from the poem 'Cautionary Calendar', ***or*** your own personification poem about the days of the weeks.