

19. TITLE:

Personification of weather

SENTENCES

EXAMPLES:

- a. The rain wept down the window = sad mood
- b. The wind screamed through the branches = tense mood
- c. The breeze murmured through the branches = happy mood
- d. The snow smothered the town = tense, claustrophobic mood

EXPLANATION:

To produce one of these sentences, an element of the weather, such as rain or wind, is given a human attribute.

If the *rain wept*, then the word *wept* is the human attribute which personifies the weather. This sentence is particularly useful for creating mood in a story. The *rain weeping*, for example, creates a sad mood.

TEACHING TIPS:

To ascertain whether pupils are ready for *Personification of weather* sentences, I play personification games in which we 'bring to life' objects in the classroom.

Sometimes we make a pencil or pen talk using the following sentence starters:

1. I like

2. I don't like
3. I'm happy when
4. I'm sad when
5. I'd rather be

If the responses are too short, add the word *because* to the end of each!

When pupils have demonstrated their ability to personify using this method, then we begin to personify the weather.

I use a range of strategies to embed understanding of this sentence type including:

- underlining the *personified* word in given examples
- adding a *personified word* in sentences with these omitted
- linking sounds and actions which humans make and do when they are happy, sad, angry, frightened etc.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Ask pupils to add adverbs of manner to the simple personification sentences:

The rain wept down the window.

might become:

The rain wept pitifully down the window.