

Personification

Poets often use **personification**. This just means describing an object or idea as if it were a person. For example:

Angry lightning cracked its whip across the sky

This extract is from a poem that describes winter as if it were a person. After you have read the poem, copy it into your Poetry Anthology and draw a picture of winter as it is described here.

From **December**

A wrinkled crabbed man they picture thee,
Old Winter, with a rugged beard as grey
As the long moss upon the apple tree;
Blue-lipt. an ice drop at thy sharp blue nose,
Close muffled up, and on thy dreary way
Plodding along through sleet and drifting snows.

By **Robert Southey** (1774-1843)

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In this next poem, the poet describes different sorts of weather as if they are people. What are the adjectives describing each type of weather? What words describe how the weather behaves?

Weathers

Weathers are moody;
Hyperactive Wind
is never still;
Wet Fog
just hangs around
Ebullient Hail
bounces back.

Rain doesn't muck about;
he's down to earth.

By **Michael Harrison**

You can use **personification** to help you describe things in poems. Think of subjects as if they were people and decide what sort of people they would be, what they would look like and how they would behave.

In the poem **December**, Robert Southey describes winter as a wrinkled old man. What sort of person do you think the other seasons would be?

Choose one of the other seasons and imagine it as a person.

What sort of person is this season? Old or young? Man or woman?

Behaviour. How does your chosen season behave? What does it do?

Appearance. What does this season look like? What clothes is it wearing?

Mood, emotions, feelings. Describe the character of this season.

Now use your ideas about your chosen season to write a poem on a Pages document.

You could start with the line:

Here comes _____ dressed in his/her _____