

Identifying Personification in AP Language



- ★ **Personification:** giving human characteristics to inanimate objects or abstract ideas. Ex: “The wind cried in the dark.”
- Pay extra attention to any moments when the author describes non-human object/animal/idea with human characteristics
- Allows writers to create life and motion within their writing

Example:

- "Ah, William, we're weary of weather,' said the sunflowers, shining with dew. 'Our traveling habits have tired us. Can you give us a room with a view?' They arranged themselves at the window and counted the steps of the sun, and they both took root in the carpet where the topaz tortoises run."- Nancy Willard
 - What is being personified? The sunflowers
 - What human characteristic: talking, arranging, and counting

Common phrases:

- Justice is blind: justice given a human characteristic (blindness)
- The wind howled: wind being given a human action (howling)
- The city never sleeps: city given a human tendency (sleep)
- The sun smiled down on them: sun given a human action (smiled)