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Figurative Language

Personification Reference Notebook

When a writer uses **figurative language**, they want to appeal to the reader's **senses, imagination** or **sense of humour**. The meaning of a figurative language phrase goes **beyond the literal meaning** of each individual word.

Song lyrics are a great place to find figurative language. Can you find the examples of **PERSONIFICATION** in this song excerpt?

Cut out around the edges of the box and glue the song into your book. Highlight each **PERSONIFICATION** you find and explain what it really means.

“The Wind Cries Mary”

by Jimi Hendrix (excerpt)

You can hear happiness staggering
on down the street
Footprints dressed in red
And the wind whispers Mary
A broom is drearily sweeping up
the broken pieces of yesterday's
life
Somewhere a queen is weeping
Somewhere a king has no wife
And the wind, it cries Mary



Now cut out this quick reference guide to PERSONIFICATION and glue it into your book to remind you how this type of figurative language works.

Personification

Personification is a trick writers use to add interest and meaning to a poem or story. It means to **give human characteristics** or **actions** to **non-human things** or **animals**.

The quality or action has to be either unique to humans or something the subject/animal cannot do. For example:

My downy quilt hugged me to sleep.

Mmm, that last piece of cake is calling to me!

The poor vegetables are begging for water in this hot weather.

The personification could also be an adjective or adverb which describes a human quality. For example:

The angry clouds hung dark overhead.

Brambles lashed spitefully at me along the path.



hello!



Answers:

“The Wind Cries Mary”

by Jimi Hendrix (excerpt)

Someone is so joyful (and maybe very tired after a party) that they're staggering along. The happiness has become their whole personality.

The walker is probably wearing red shoes – each step is made with the red soles.

You can hear happiness staggering on down the street

Footprints dressed in red

The wind can sound like a human whisper or cry – the singer feels that even the weather is thinking about 'Mary' and saying her name.

And the wind whispers Mary
A broom is drearily sweeping up the broken pieces of yesterday's life

It's really the person holding the broom who is moving drearily – giving the emotion to the broom makes it seem much stronger.

Somewhere a queen is weeping
Somewhere a king has no wife
And the wind, it cries Mary