

Poetry Toolbox: Personification

A Pocketful of Poems

written by Nikki Grimes

illustrated by Javaka Steptoe

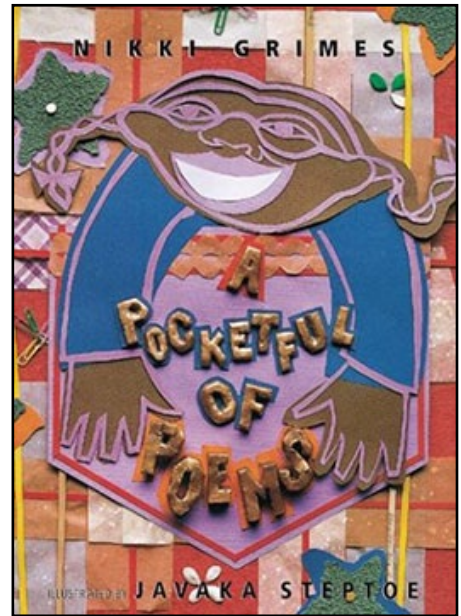
Clarion Books, 2001

Poets use personification to help their poems come to life. Personification is a long word that just means making an object act like a person. That's it. You just pretend that the object (anything like a leaf, scissors) is a person.

Examples:

"April showers scrub the air"
(from page 9 of *A Pocketful of Poems*)

"purple flowers shout the news"
(p. 7)



Ways to make something human:

Make it move like a person: running, cartwheeling, reaching, etc.

Make it sound like a person: shouting, whispering, listening, etc.

Give it emotion: sadness, joy, hope, etc.

You try:

1. Trees _____ in the moonlight.
2. The clouds _____ in a rainstorm.
3. Streetlights _____ when _____.
4. The ball _____ as it _____.
5. Jack hammers _____ as they _____.

Now look around the room (or even better- go outside) and find three more things to personify. Try to find things that are doing something human-like.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.