

PERSONIFICATION OF ANIMALS

One of the ways that we can connect to the world around us is by bringing nature and imagination together through storytelling. Writers use different kinds of tools to do this. One of these tools is called personification. Personification is when we give human qualities, emotions, or characteristics to something nonhuman. For example, you could personify a wilting plant by saying that the plant looks sad because it has not been watered.

We sometimes personify animals in fictional stories by having them speak, wear clothing, live in houses, go to school, or resemble humans in some other way. To practice personification in your writing, follow the steps below to create a story in which you personify an animal.

- Step 1** Grab a notebook and a pen/pencil, then go outside and find an animal in your neighborhood. This could be your pet, a squirrel, a bird, a dog, a cat, a bug, or any other animal you might find.
- Step 2** Observe the animal; what does the animal look like? What was the animal doing when you found it? How does it move (walk/run/fly)? Does it make any sound? In your notebook, make a list of as many details about the animal as you can think of.
- Step 3** Now that you have your list of observations, consider how you could personify the animal that you observed. What could the animal have been thinking? What was the animal doing and why? For instance, if you observed two squirrels chasing each other, you could personify them by imagining that they are playing a game of tag.
- Step 4** Once you have decided how you are going to personify the animal, write your idea in the form of a short story or a comic. Try to incorporate both the real details you observed about the animal with the fictional situation, motivation, or dialogue that you imagined.