

## Personification Exercise

To make writing more vivid, an author sometimes treats ideas, animals, or objects like persons. This device is called Personification. To describe the sound of a stream, an author may borrow an ability that only a person possesses in order to make his imagery more vivid. He may write that “the stream murmured” instead of “the stream flowed with almost no noise.” The use of “murmured” suggests that the stream is a person.

Directions: In each blank space below, an expression of personification is omitted. Choose from the list of words below the expression which would complete each sentence most vividly. The rest of the sentences will help you decide which expression is most appropriate for each sentence.

1. A long line of cars \_\_\_\_\_ about the delay at the bridge.
2. The melting candles \_\_\_\_\_ on the polished table.
3. In the center of town was a cathedral \_\_\_\_\_ the other roofs.
4. Tall sunflower stalks began to swing \_\_\_\_\_ in the breeze.
5. The cabin had no damage except a broken window which a spider \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Shadows of the vine \_\_\_\_\_ on the bedroom wall.
7. Five violets \_\_\_\_\_ on the rim of the vase.
8. Brightly \_\_\_\_\_ maples stood \_\_\_\_\_ along the driveway.
9. In the hayloft the mice squeaked and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. As the earth shook, our house \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Sandpipers \_\_\_\_\_ the edge of the beach with millions of tiny stitches.
12. The ranger watched helplessly as \_\_\_\_\_ of flame \_\_\_\_\_ one tall tree after another.
13. A huge limb of the oak broke off, leaving a gap which dripped sap \_\_\_\_\_.
14. As the storm approached \_\_\_\_\_ leaves \_\_\_\_\_ at my screen door for protection.
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the aged apple tree \_\_\_\_\_ under the weight of its fruit.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ clouds of smoke rose from the chimneys of the \_\_\_\_\_ village.

baked  
gagged  
sagged  
begged  
sleepy  
complained  
demanded

frightened  
embroidered  
knee-deep  
red tongues  
gnarled arms  
uniformed  
lazy

danced and curtsayed  
shed their wax tears  
their golden heads  
had tried to mend  
chinned themselves  
began to groan and tremble  
shoulder to shoulder

looking down upon  
like a bleeding wound