

# Making comparisons II

---

**This task is about identifying and explaining the use of personification in a poem.**

In each of the following poems an object is being described as if it is an animal.

Next to each poem:

1. write the **name** of the object and the animal that are being compared, and
2. write down **three** ways each object is made to seem as if it is alive.

The first one has been done as an example.

a) **Asparagus**

Like a nest  
Of snakes  
Awakened, craning  
Long-necked

Out of the  
Ground: to stand  
With sharp  
Scaly heads

Alert, tasting  
The air,  
Taking the sun,  
Looking around.

i) What object and animal are being compared?

asparagus and snakes

ii) Write down **three** ways in which the object is made to seem as if it is alive.

- The asparagus fronds crane their necks
- They have sharp scaly heads
- They look around

b) **Tractor**

The tractor rests  
In the shed,  
Dead or asleep,

But with high  
Hind wheels  
Held so still

We know  
It is only waiting,  
Ready to leap -

Like a heavy  
Brown  
Grasshopper

i) What object and animal are being compared?

and

ii) Write down **three** ways in which the object is made to seem as if it is alive.

c) **Safety pin**

Closed, it sleeps  
On its side  
Quietly,  
The silver  
Image  
Of some  
Small fish;

Opened, it snaps  
Its tail out  
Like a thin  
Shrimp, and looks  
At the sharp  
Point with a  
Surprised eye.

i) What object and animal are being compared?

and

ii) Write down **three** ways in which the object is made to seem as if it is alive.

d) **Holden Commodore**

In the early evening,  
I see a big red lion  
with its eyes shining yellow.

It prowls for ages  
along the road  
and only stops  
to drink at Caltex.

I can hear it roar.

i) What object and animal are being compared?

and

ii) Write down **three** ways in which the object is made to seem as if it is alive.

e) What is the **effect** of showing how objects are like animals in poetry?

Published on <https://newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz>