

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?

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