

Personification

Personification: giving an object human- or animal-like characteristics, qualities, or feelings.

Read the poem by Emily Dickinson below, and underline at least 6 examples of personification. Then, explain how the poet uses personification.

Highlighted phrases may vary.
Some examples are below.

The Moon

By Emily Dickinson

The moon was but a chin of gold
A night or two ago,
And now she turns her perfect face
Upon the world below.

Her forehead is of amplest blond;
Her cheek like beryl stone;
Her eye unto the summer dew
The likest I have known.

Her lips of amber never part;
But what must be the smile
Upon her friend she could bestow
Were such her silver will!

And what a privilege to be
But the remotest star!
For certainly her way might pass
Beside your twinkling door.

Her bonnet is the firmament,
The universe her shoe,
The stars the trinkets at her belt,
Her dimities of blue.



Answers may vary

Explain how Dickinson uses personification in the poem "The Moon."

The poet uses personification in the

poem "The Moon" to help paint a

picture for the reader. The reader

can imagine the moon as a woman's

face, with a "chin of gold" and "lips

of amber". The moon becomes

more than an object in the sky. The

personification gives the moon

its own thoughts and feelings. For

example, the moon would surely

bestow a wonderful smile upon her

friend "were such her silver will".