

Making comparisons

This task is about identifying and exchanging the use of personification in some poems.

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

Next to each poem

- i) write the name of the object and the animal that are being compared, and
- ii) 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?

Text Sources: 'asparagus', 'tractor', and 'safety pin', 'All the Small Poems', Harper Collins Canada Ltd, 1987. 'Holden Commodore', Journal of Young People's Writing, Learning Media, 1999.