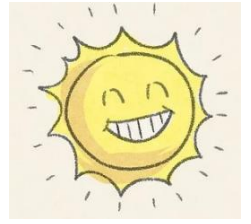


### Weekly focus: poems about animals

Do you remember when we wrote poems about the weather? This week, we're going to do a similar thing, but about animals!

#### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - WALT: use personification

When we wrote our poems about the weather, we learnt a technique called 'personification'. Personification is when something non-human is given human qualities.



Example: the cat danced around the mouse



This is personification because cats don't actually dance, but humans do! It's used to describe the cat because when a cat chases a mouse, the fast movements make it look like a dance.

Next, let's look at this famous poem about an eagle. The language may seem a little strange because it was written in 1851, so there is a glossary to help you understand it. Highlight or underline where Tennyson has used personification.

The Eagle by Lord Alfred Tennyson  
He clasps the crag with crooked hands;  
Close to the sun in lonely lands,  
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;  
He watches from his mountain walls,  
And like a thunderbolt he falls.



#### Glossary

crag - a steep cliff

ring'd - ringed (encircled by a ring)

azure - bright blue

Did you find Tennyson's personification?

1. He described the eagle as having 'crooked hands' - eagles don't have hands, but humans do!
2. He also wrote, 'The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls' - the sea doesn't actually crawl, but humans do! The waves look as though they are crawling.

You can also use personification by 'becoming' the animal, using the pronoun 'I'. Have a look how this poem has done this.

**Dragonfly Out in the Sun by David Windle**

I am a dragonfly  
and I live on the breeze,  
between the reeds and rushes  
and the sun's soft fingers.

I am a dragonfly  
and my wings are like water,  
or as sharp as two swords  
cutting the air into pieces.

I am a dragonfly  
and my eyes are like glass,  
as round as the moon  
they see all that pass.

I am a dragonfly  
and my body's a spear;  
as sharp as an eagle  
I hunt for my prey.

I am a dragonfly  
and I float like a dancer  
over the pond's still surface,  
which reflects, like a mirror,  
my miraculous presence.

Do you know how I feel?



**Task 1 - Nasty Writing**

Write a sentence for each of the animals using personification. You can either make the animal do something a human can do that the animal can't (like dancing), give it a human feature (like hands) or become the animal by using 'I'.



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## Task 2 - personify an animal of your choice!

Now it's time to pick the animal you will be writing your poem about! It might be easier to pick your pet as you know what it's like. You could also look up pictures and videos of the animal you have chosen. Next, think carefully about how you can personify that animal.

Will you personify your animal by becoming the animal (using the pronoun 'I')?

e.g. I am the tiger...

What features of the animal could become human?

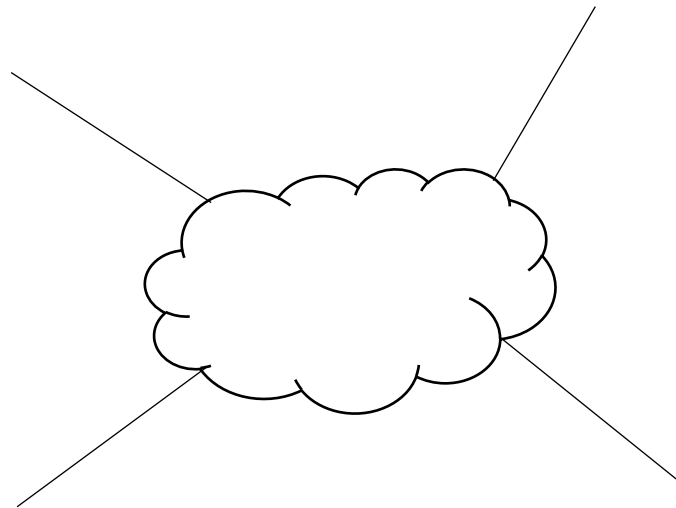
e.g. claws could become nails; a beak could become a nose...

What does your animal do that could become a human action?

e.g. the bluebird talks to the world

Make a mind map of different ways you can personify your chosen animal. Write the animal you have chosen in the middle of the bubble and your personification ideas around the outside (you can draw more lines if you want to!).

Also, think about the tense you're going to use. If you choose present tense, keep it all present and if you choose past tense, keep it all past.



Make sure you keep this page - you will use it to later!

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - WALT: use similes

When we wrote our poems about the weather, we used similes. Similes compare two things using like or as.

Examples: his teeth are *as sharp as* a dagger  
his eyes shine *like* the golden sun



Now let's take another look at Windle's poem about a dragonfly. Highlight or underline where he has used similes.

*Dragonfly Out in the Sun by David Windle*

I am a dragonfly  
and I live on the breeze,  
between the reeds and rushes  
and the sun's soft fingers.

I am a dragonfly  
and my wings are like water,  
or as sharp as two swords  
cutting the air into pieces.

I am a dragonfly  
and my eyes are like glass,  
as round as the moon  
they see all that pass.

I am a dragonfly  
and my body's a spear;  
as sharp as an eagle  
I hunt for my prey.

I am a dragonfly  
and I float like a dancer  
over the pond's still surface,  
which reflects, like a mirror,  
my miraculous presence.

Do you know how I feel?





### Did you find Windle's similes?

1. Describing the dragonfly's wings: 'my wings are like water or as sharp as two swords cutting the air into pieces'.
2. Describing the dragonfly's eyes: 'my eyes are like glass, as round as the moon'.
3. Describing the dragonfly's body: 'as sharp as an eagle'.
4. Describing how the dragonfly moves: 'I float like a dancer'.

### Task 1 - Nasty Writing

Write a sentence for each of the animals using a simile. Remember: you need to compare a feature of the animal or an action it might do to something else, using 'like' or 'as'.



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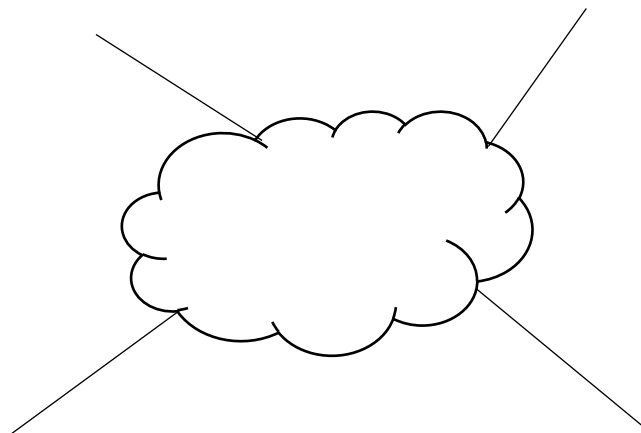
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### Task 2 - write similes about your chosen animal!

Now write the same animal as you chose last lesson in the middle of your mind map and write similes about that animal (you can draw more lines if you want to)! Think about what features and actions you can compare to something else.



Make sure you keep this page - you will use it to later!

## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - WALT: use metaphors

When we wrote our poems about the weather, we used metaphors. Metaphors are similar to similes, but they compare two things without using like or as.

Examples: his teeth *are* daggers  
his eyes *are* the golden sun



Now let's take another look at part of Windle's poem about a dragonfly. Highlight or underline where he has used a metaphor.

Dragonfly Out in the Sun by David Windle

I am a dragonfly  
and my body's a spear;  
as sharp as an eagle  
I hunt for my prey.



Did you find Windle's metaphor?

Windle writes, 'my body's a spear'. This time, he's saying the dragonfly's body **IS** a spear rather than like a spear.

### Task 1 - Nasty Writing

Write a sentence for each of the animals using a metaphor. Remember: you need to compare a feature of the animal or an action it might do to something else, **WITHOUT** using 'like' or 'as'.



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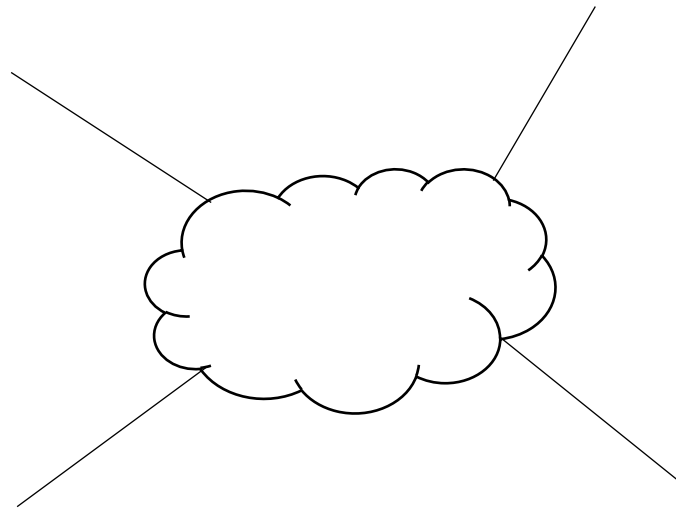
## Task 2 - write metaphors about your chosen animal!

Now write the same animal as you chose last lesson in the middle of your mind map and write metaphors about that animal (you can draw more lines if you want to)! Think about what features and actions you can compare to something else, WITHOUT using like or as.

Examples: my fur is snow  
his eyes are the ocean  
I am the wind

Keep in mind the tense you have chosen to use. If you chose present tense, keep it all present - you'll be using words like 'am' and 'is'. If you chose past tense, keep it all past - you'll be using words like 'was' and 'were'.

Also keep in mind whether you have chosen to 'become' the animal and are using first person pronouns like 'I' and 'my' or whether you are not becoming the animal and are using third person pronouns like 'he', 'his', 'she' or 'her'.



Make sure you keep this page - you will use it to later!

## Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 - WALT: draft a free verse poem

### Task 1 - Nasty Writing

Expanded noun phrases are another useful device you can use in your poem. You can use them to describe the animal you've chosen or the setting of your poem.

The smallest expanded noun phrase we can have is a **determiner** + **adjective** + **noun** e.g. **the majestic horse**.

We can also expand the noun phrase further with more **adjectives** e.g. **the majestic, gallant horse**.

We can expand the noun phrase even further with a **prepositional phrase** e.g. **the majestic, gallant horse with a silky, snow-coloured mane**.

Let's look at the expanded noun phrases Tennyson has used in his poem.

The Eagle by Lord Alfred Tennyson  
He clasps the crag with crooked hands;  
Close to the sun in lonely lands,  
Ring'd with **the azure world**, he stands.

**The wrinkled sea beneath him** crawls;  
He watches from **his mountain walls**,  
And like a thunderbolt he falls.



#### Glossary

crag - a steep cliff

ring'd - ringed (encircled by a ring)

azure - bright blue

Now write an expanded noun phrase that you could use in your poem. It could describe your chosen animal or the setting. You can use the support table below to help you. You could also Google adjectives to describe your chosen thing.

Determiner	Adjectives	Noun	Prepositional Phrase
A determiner is a word which comes before a noun or any modifiers, such as adjectives. They introduce the noun and give the reader important information about it.	Adjectives are words which describe a noun. You can use two adjectives to describe a noun but they must be separated by a comma, e.g. the huge, hairy spider.	The noun is the thing, person or idea that the expanded noun phrase is about.	A preposition is a word which indicates place or direction. A prepositional phrase usually includes a preposition and a noun or a pronoun.
the a an my these her our your five some many those	colourful gigantic miniature pristine dilapidated ancient obnoxious mischievous crumpled ecstatic muscular rectangular	socks bus engine bottle television pond custard paper lettuce caravan tongue Linda imagination	beside the river near the town in the water during the night through the winter this evening on the table between the houses underneath the waterfall before morning towards home



## Task 2 - draft a free verse poem about your chosen animal!

Remember when we wrote our poems about the weather? We wrote free verse poems. Free verse is a poem with no set rhyming rhythm or rules. Tennyson's poem, which we have just looked at, is NOT a free verse poem, as it has a rhyming pattern. Windle's poem, which looked at earlier in the week, IS a free verse poem, as it has no set rhyming pattern.

Here is your success criteria (remember, you've already planned for these!):

<b>Free verse</b> <i>A poem with no set rhyming rhythm</i>	
<b>Personification</b> <i>When something non-human is given human qualities</i>	
<b>Similes</b> <i>Comparing two things using like or as</i>	
<b>Metaphors</b> <i>Comparing two things without using like or as</i>	
<b>Expanded noun phrases</b> <i>Determiner + adjective(s) + noun (+ prepositional phrase)</i>	

Today, you are going to gather the personification, similes and metaphors that you have written about your animal and order them, deciding what you want to keep and what you don't. You'll need your mind maps next to you. Include the expanded noun phrase you came up with in Nasty Writing.

For example, I'm writing a poem about a cat. First, I'm going to write down all the ideas I came up with earlier in the week in a list.

I am a cat  
My nails are sharp and pointy  
My hands are soft and warm  
I dance for the mice and birds  
My eyes are as blue as the ocean  
My fur is like a blanket of snow  
My teeth are as sharp as a dagger  
I run as fast as the wind  
I am a king, ruling over my land  
My fur is my crown  
I am a knight, protecting the people  
My tail is my sword  
The green garden with towering trees



Now it's your turn to do the same with your ideas!

Next, I'm going to order my ideas, thinking about themes that go together and getting rid of anything I don't think fits with my poem. I might start to edit my ideas to help them fit together.

I have decided that I don't want the reader to know that I'm a cat, I want them to guess, so I have taken out that line. I have also decided that I want each stanza (verse) to start to with a metaphor, telling the reader that I'm something else, so I'm going to add more in. You don't have to write your poem in stanzas or make your reader guess what you are, but you can.

I am a mother, caring for my young  
My hands are soft and warm  
My fur is like a blanket of snow

I am a ballerina, twirling for the crowds  
I dance for mice and birds

I am a king, ruling over my land  
My kingdom is a green garden with towering trees  
My fur is my crown

I am a knight, protecting the people  
My teeth are as sharp as a dagger  
My tail is my sword

My eyes are as blue as the ocean

I like my simile about the cat's eyes but I'm not sure where to put it, so I'm just going to leave it at the end for now.

Now it's your turn to do the same with your ideas!

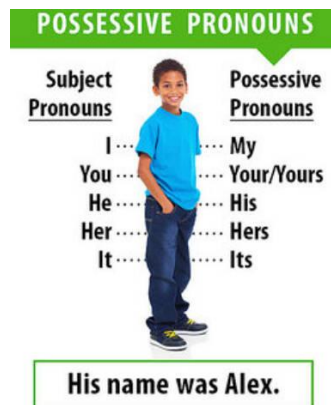
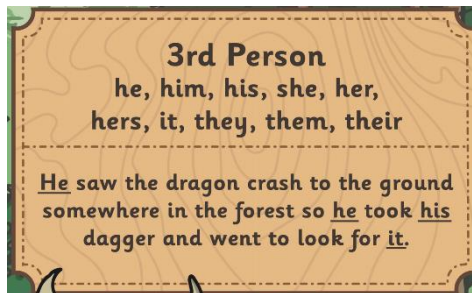
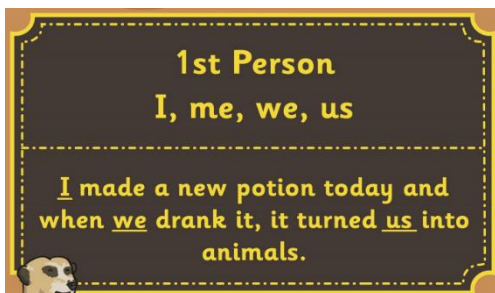
We'll finish off our poems tomorrow!

## Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 - WALT: edit a free verse poem

### Task 1 - Nasty Writing

Some of you are writing your poems using first person pronouns, and some of you are writing your poems using third person pronouns. Let's recap what pronouns are!

- Pronouns are words which replace a noun.
- First person pronouns refer to the speaker or to the writer themselves.
- Third person pronouns refer to someone else.
- Possessive pronouns show that something belongs to someone.



Underline the pronouns in the sentences below:

This is my dog.

I have lived in Worthing for many years.

We believe that wearing uniform is fantastic!

His mum told him he was not allowed out to play.

I couldn't believe that the cake was all mine.

### Task 2 - edit your free verse poem about your chosen animal!

Today, you're going to finish your free verse poem that you started writing yesterday. Take another look at your poem - you need to edit in more lines so that it flows how you want it to. Hint: don't make your lines too long! Here's mine from yesterday:

I am a mother, caring for my young  
My hands are soft and warm  
My fur is like a blanket of snow

I am a ballerina, twirling for the crowds  
I dance for mice and birds

I am a king, ruling over my land  
My kingdom is a green garden with towering trees  
My fur is my crown

I am a knight, protecting the people  
My tail is my sword  
My teeth are as sharp as a dagger

My eyes are as blue as the ocean

Some of my stanzas are longer than the others, so I want to make them have a similar amount of lines. Remember, it's free verse, so how many lines you have is up to you - there are no rules! I also need to find a place for my lonely simile at the end and I've noticed that all my lines start with a pronoun (how boring!) so I'm going to edit so there is more a variety of line starters.

I am a mother, caring for my young  
My hands are soft and warm  
And my fur is like a blanket of snow  
Made to snuggle you to sleep

I am a ballerina, twirling for the crowds  
I dance for mice and birds  
But my audience looks scared  
As I only perform tragedies

I am a king, ruling over my land  
I stare at my kingdom with eyes like the ocean  
A green garden of towering trees  
And my fur is my crown

I am a knight, protecting the people  
My teeth are as sharp as a dagger  
And my tail is my sword  
Thrashing at our enemies

Now it's your turn your ideas into a poem!

Next, I'm going to uplevel some of the boring vocabulary I have used. You could type your boring words into [an online thesaurus](#) to find a better synonym.

I am a mother, caring for my young  
My hands are soft and warm  
And my **fleece** is like a blanket of snow  
Made to **settle** you to sleep

I am a ballerina, twirling for the crowds  
I dance for mice and birds  
But my audience looks **alarmed**  
As I only perform tragedies

I am a king, ruling over my land  
I stare at my kingdom with eyes like the ocean  
A **viridescent** garden of towering trees  
And my fur is my crown

Now it's your turn to do the same with your boring vocabulary!



Now I'm going to give my poem a title. Since I want the reader to be able to guess my poem is about a cat, I won't write that in my title, but yours could be as simple as the name of your animal. I've decided to use an expanded noun phrase!

I also need to decide what punctuation I'm using on the end of my lines. Since it's a poem, you can choose not to have any. I'm going have a comma after each line and a full stop at the end of each stanza.

### The Doting Beast

I am a mother, caring for my young,  
My hands are soft and warm,  
And my fleece is like a blanket of snow,  
Made to settle you to sleep.

I am a ballerina, twirling for the crowds,  
I dance for mice and birds,  
But my audience looks alarmed,  
As I only perform tragedies.

I am a king, ruling over my land,  
I stare at my kingdom with eyes like the ocean,  
A viridescent garden of towering trees,  
And my fur is my crown.

I am a knight, protecting the people,  
My teeth are as sharp as a dagger,  
And my tail is my sword,  
Thrashing at our enemies.

*Now it's your turn to add a title and punctuation!*

Finally, check your poem has met all the success criteria and edit in any bits you might have missed:

<b>Free verse</b> <i>A poem with no set rhyming rhythm</i>	
<b>Personification</b> <i>When something non-human is given human qualities</i>	
<b>Similes</b> <i>Comparing two things using like or as</i>	
<b>Metaphors</b> <i>Comparing two things without using like or as</i>	
<b>Expanded noun phrases</b> <i>Determiner + adjective(s) + noun (+ prepositional phrase)</i>	

Also, double check that the tense is all the same (mine is all present tense) and that you have used the correct pronouns (I have used first person throughout mine).

*And you're done! Why not email your poem to your teacher? I bet it's fantastic!*