

PERSONIFICATION *leaves*

R E A D I N G & V I S U A L A R T

Objectives

CONTENT

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.4 – Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

FINE ARTS

VA:Cr2.1.2a: Experiment with various materials and tools to explore personal interest in a work of art or design.

Pre-Assessment:

Ask students to view the art print [Vertumnus](#) by Giovanni Arcimboldi. What do they notice about the work? What is being used to create the face of the man?

Engagement:

Explain that when artists and authors choose to use objects to create human characteristics, that is called Personification.

Activity:

1. Read aloud the book [Leaf Man](#) by Lois Ehlert. Ask students how the author is using personification in the illustrations and in the text.
2. During the read aloud, ask students to predict where the leaves will go next. How do they think the author might show that with the leaves?
3. Have students think about an object or food that would be found on their Thanksgiving table and create a list of phrases that could personify that object (such as “the candle danced in the breeze”). Select their favorite phrase and write it down.
4. Take students on a nature walk to collect a variety of leaves. Be sure to select examples with different shapes, sizes, colors and textures.
5. Bring the leaves back and refer back to their selected phrase. Organize the leaves on a blank sheet of paper in a what that would best capture the phrase, based on size, shape, color and texture.

Closing:

Once happy with their design, students can glue down their leaves into their personification phrases. Use oil pastels to complete the background.

Assessment:

Students can then present their finished artwork to the class and share their selected personification phrase. Assess students based on their use of language to reflect personification, as well as their choices and arrangement of leaves to communicate their selected phrase.

Materials:

- *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert
- *Vertumnus* by Giovanni Arcimboldi
- White construction paper
- Leaves
- Glue
- Oil Pastels