Xerophytes are plants that are at their best,
Growing in regions like the dry Northwest.
Desert flowers know how they can survive;
They'll not only grow, they're certain to thrive.

Phreatophytes grow roots down deep in the ground,
Making their way until water is found.
Deserts are dry, they're as hot as can be,
But flowers can grow and even a tree.

Primroses and asters, poppies and lupine,
Live in the desert’s blazing, hot sunshine.
These plants all learned what they needed to know,
To live in a place where others can’t grow.
Desert Flower Power

By Alice Knisley Matthias

1. What is this poem about?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

2. Line 4 reads: They’ll not only grow, they’re certain to thrive.
Define the underlined word. Use a dictionary if you need help.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

3. How have Phreatophytes adapted to survive?
   a. Their roots hold extra water underground so the plant can survive.
   b. They do not have roots to take in water.
   c. Their roots are very shallow to absorb more water.
   d. Their roots go deep into the earth, where there is more water.

4. Create a new, appropriate title for this poem. Do not use the words desert, flower, or power in your new title.

______________________________________________________________________________

Something extra: With a parent or teacher, use the internet to look up the words Xerophyte and Phreatophyte. On a separate sheet of paper, tell how they are the same and how they are different.
Desert Flower Power

By Alice Knisley Matthias

Personification is when a writer makes a plant, animal or object seem like a human.

Here is one example of personification, from line 3 of the “Desert Flower Power” poem:

Desert flowers know how they can survive.

1. There is one other line with personification. (Hint: It’s in the last 4 lines of the poem.) Find it, and copy it below.

2. Explain why the line you copied above is an example of personification.

3. Read each sentence below. Tell which sentences show personification. Write personification or not personification on the lines.

___________________________ The trees were dancing in the wind.
___________________________ The light was brightly shining.
___________________________ The water sang as it crashed against the rocks.
___________________________ My computer died last night.
___________________________ The wooden table had beautiful shapes carved into it.
1. What is this poem about?
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

2. Line 4 reads:
They'll not only grow, they're certain to thrive.
Define the underlined word. Use a dictionary if you need help.
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

3. How have Phreatophytes adapted to survive?
   a. Their roots hold extra water underground so the plant can survive.
   b. They do not have roots to take in water.
   c. Their roots are very shallow to absorb more water.
   d. Their roots go deep into the earth, where there is more water.

4. Create a new, appropriate title for this poem. Do not use the words desert, flower, or power in your new title.
________________________________________________________________________________

Something extra: With a parent or teacher, use the internet to look up the words Xerophyte and Phreatophyte. On a separate sheet of paper, tell how they are the same and how they are different.
Desert Flower Power

Personification is when a writer makes a plant, animal, or object seem like a human. Here is one example of personification, from line 3 of the “Desert Flower Power” poem:

Desert flowers know how they can survive.

Of course, desert flowers don’t have brains, so they can’t really know things. The writer uses the word know to make the plants seem like they have human qualities.

1. There is one other line with personification. (Hint: It’s in the last 4 lines of the poem.) Find it, and copy it below.

________________________________________________________________________________

2. Explain why the line you copied above is an example of personification.
   ____________________________________________________________________________
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   ___________________________ The trees were dancing in the wind.
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   personification
   personification
   personification
   not personification

Plants don’t have brains and they can’t learn things in the way that humans can. These plants all learned what they needed to know, personification not personification personification personification not personification