

Claire Francis 'sailing' text: Mr B's sample: How to write about language effects

Personification	
Grade B	<p>The writer uses personification to bring the boat to life. Claire Francis writes of the boat “she would rush at a wave, leap off the top, and then crash down the other side.” The language she uses makes the boat feel as if it is a person or animal. The way she refers to it as “she” reinforces the idea that the boat has a life of its own. The effect of this technique is that the journey seems more dramatic, because it feels as if the boat itself is involved in a battle with the sea. It makes the picture seem more dramatic and more memorable.</p>
	<p>Mr B's comment: This is good. It spots the point, explains it, and then talks about the effect. To get a higher grade the writer needs to comment on and quote individual parts of the language</p>

Grade A	<p>One technique the writer employs is personification: “she would rush at a wave, leap off the top, and then crash down the other side.” The use of the word “she” is surprising here. We use it usually to describe animals or humans, but here it is applied to an inanimate object. It brings the boat to life. This technique is developed further by the dramatic use of verbs to suggest the struggle the boat has with the elements: it “leaps” and “crashes”. This adds significantly to the drama of the text because it makes the battle with the elements seem even greater. The boat is, like Claire Francis, involved in an epic fight for survival. The personification helps the reader to visualise the scene and to imagine what it would be like to be there.</p>
	<p>Mr B’s comment: This is very good because it pays close attention to the language, quotes individual words, and uses better vocabulary.</p>

You could write like this, couldn’t you? It’s not that hard to do really well in English – honest.
Thanks for emailing.

Mr B