

## Grade 6 English Language Arts

Week of February 1 – February 5

### Lesson 3: Fossils and Creative Tools – Alliteration, Onomatopoeia, and Personification

#### What is Alliteration?

Example: "*Seven sisters slept soundly on the sand.*"

- the repetition of the beginning sounds in neighbouring or nearby words.
- creates a pattern that is memorable and makes you pay attention.
- is fun to say and enjoyable to hear.

Where have you heard it before?

- Many familiar expressions use alliteration. These include "down in the dumps" and "turn the tables."
- Tongue twisters use alliteration.: "rubber baby buggy bumpers."
- Advertising
- Many sayings such as these use alliteration:
  - He who laughs last laughs first.
  - Time and tide wait for no man.

Remember: Alliteration is a repetition of sound, not letters, so look carefully when trying to identify it.

#### Alliteration and Poetry

While reading the following poem out loud, imagine fossils and skeletons of extinct creatures having a rowdy and lively gathering. Can you find examples of alliteration in two lines of this poem?

## “FOSSILS” by Ogden Nash

(Written in 1949 to accompany one section of *The Carnival of the Animals*, an entertaining musical suite of fourteen songs.)

At midnight in the museum hall,  
The fossils gathered for a ball,  
There were no drums or saxophones,  
But just the clatter of their bones,  
Rolling, rattling carefree circus,  
Of mammoth polkas and mazurkas,  
Pterodactyls and brontosauruses  
Sang ghostly prehistoric choruses,  
Amid the mastodonic wassail I caught  
the eye of one small fossil,  
“Cheer up sad world,” he said and  
winked,  
“It’s kind of fun to be extinct.”



Source: <http://www.thefossilforum.com>

### Complete the alliteration activity in your Learning Guide.

Listen to the music for which Ogden Nash wrote *Fossils*. Do you think the xylophone sounds like the "clatter of their bones"?



The Carnival of the Animals: <https://youtu.be/HTHaH5ONge8>

**Onomatopoeia** is a word that imitates the sound it represents.

How to pronounce onomatopoeia:

[Onomatopoeia.mp3](#)

**Examples:**

splash, wow, gush, kerplunk

Such devices bring out the full flavour of words. When these sound words occur, it is called onomatopoeia (a Greek word meaning name-making for the sounds literally make the meaning.)

Why use onomatopoeia in poetry? It is so descriptive and helps us to imagine what is happening.

**More Examples of Onomatopoeia:**

- Words related to air: flutter, gasp, swish, swoosh, whisper, whoosh, whizz, whip.
- Words related to animals: chirp, woof, purr, buzz, cluck, cock-a-doodle-doo, baa, hiss, meow, moo, neigh, oink, quack, ribbit, tweet.
- Words related to collisions and fights: bam, bang, boom, clang, clank, clap, clatter, click, clink, ding, slam, screech, slap, smash, thud, thump.
- Words related to the voice: chatter, blurt, giggle, growl, grunt, gurgle, mumble, murmur, belch, shiver.
- Words related to water: splash, spray, sprinkle, squirt, drip, drizzle, pitter patter, sloshes, plop.



Can you find one example of onomatopoeia in the excerpt from this poem?

**“FOSSILS” by Ogden Nash**

At midnight in the museum hall,

The fossils gathered for a ball,

There were no drums or saxophones,

But just the clatter of their bones...

**Complete the onomatopoeia activity in your Learning Guide.**

## Personification:

Personification is giving human qualities to something that is not human and usually not even alive! For example:

- **The wind screamed out in sorrow to the moon.**

The wind is not alive. It doesn't have a voice to scream with and it doesn't have emotions. Here are a few more examples.

- **The friendly gates welcomed us.**
- **The Earth coughed and choked in all the pollution.**
- **The flowers danced in the wind.**



Watch the video to learn even more about personification: <https://youtu.be/nNHp7JD5rS0>

Can you find two - three examples of personification in this poem? This may be a little bit trickier than finding the alliteration and onomatopoeia.

### **“FOSSILS” by Ogden Nash**

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“Cheer up sad world,” he said and winked,  
“It’s kind of fun to be extinct.”

**Complete the personification activity in your Learning Guide.**

## ALLITERATION

Copy words from lines in the poem *Fossils* that contain alliteration. Circle the first letters on each line that have the same starting sound. Example answer:

Line one: midnight / museum

- 1.
- 2.

## ONOMATOPOEIA

The following poem contains both alliteration and onomatopoeia.

A. Underline the onomatopoeia words. Find at least six! B. Highlight the alliteration letters. (Hint: There are four lines with alliteration.)

### Running Water (by Lee Emmett)

Water plops into pond

Splash-splash downhill

Warbling magpies in tree

Trilling, melodic thrill

Whoosh, passing breeze

Flags flutter and flap

Frog croaks, bird whistles

Babbling bubbling from tap

## PERSONIFICATION

Highlight or underline the **personification** in the following sentences. The first one is done for you.

1. The wind sang her mournful song through the falling leaves.
2. The video camera observed the whole scene.
4. The strawberries seemed to sing, "Eat me first!"
5. The rain kissed my cheeks as it fell.