Personification Exercise

To make writing more vivid, an author sometimes treats ideas, animals, or objects like persons. This device is called Personification. To describe the sound of a stream, an author may borrow an ability that only a person possesses in order to make his imagery more vivid. He may write that "the stream murmured" instead of "the stream flowed with almost no noise." The use of "murmured" suggests that the stream is a person.

Directions: In each blank space below, an expression of personification is omitted. Choose from the list of words below the expression which would complete each sentence most vividly. The rest of the sentences will help you decide which expression is most appropriate for each sentence.

1. A long line of cars _____ about the delay at the bridge.

2. The melting candles _____ on the polished table.

3. In the center of town was a cathedral _____ the other roofs.

4. Tall sunflower stalks began to swing _____ in the breeze.

5. The cabin had no damage except a broken window which a spider _____.

6. Shadows of the vine _____ on the bedroom wall.

7. Five violets _____ on the rim of the vase.

8. Brightly _____ maples stood _____ along

    the driveway.

9. In the hayloft the mice squeaked and _____.

10. As the earth shook, our house _____.

11. Sandpipers _____ the edge of the beach with millions of tiny

    stitches.

12. The ranger watched helplessly as _____ of flame

    _____ one tall tree after another.

13. A huge limb of the oak broke off, leaving a gap which dripped sap

    _____.

14. As the storm approached _____ leaves

    _____ at my screen door for protection.

15. The _____ of the aged apple tree _____

    under the weight of its fruit.

16. _____ clouds of smoke rose from the chimneys of the

    _____village.

baked	frightened	danced and curtseyed	looking down upon
gagged	embroidered	shed their wax tears	like a bleeding wound
sagged	knee-deep	their golden heads	
begged	red tongues	had tried to mend	
sleepy	gnarled arms	chinned themselves	
complained	uniformed	began to groan and tremble	
demanded	lazy	shoulder to shoulder	