Make up your mind, March!
Will March bring winter snow or spring sun?

About the Poem
Learning Objective
Students will identify examples of personification in this descriptive rhyming poem about spring weather.

Key Skills
Personification, rhyme, interpreting text, main idea, making inferences, expressing an opinion

Standards Correlations
This article and lesson support the following standards:
CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.5, R.7, W.3, SL.1, SL.2, L.1
TEKS Grades 2-3: 1b, 1c, 4a, 6c, 6f, 6i, 7c, 7g, 9b, 9f, 10c, 10d, 12a

For more standards information, check our website.

Your Teaching Support Package
You’ll find these materials at StoryworksJr.scholastic.com:
Skill Builders to print or project
- Close-Reading and Critical-Thinking Questions
- Personification Skill Builder
Audio
NEW! Hear the poem read aloud, or use Text-to-Speech.

Step-by-Step Lesson Plan
Close Reading, Critical Thinking, and Skill Building

1. Preparing to Read
Set a Purpose for Reading
(10 minutes)
- Begin by reading the Personification bubble with the class. Explain that the arrows point to two examples of personification in the poem. Ask students to look for other examples as they read.
- Point out that “rooting for” in the last stanza means supporting. Ask students what they do when they root for a school team to win a game.
- This is a rhyming poem. Ask students to look for examples of rhyming words in each stanza.
- Ask students to look at the photograph. What is the bird standing on? Help students identify both the snow and the green leaves in the photo. During which season of the year do most birds appear?

2. Reading and Discussing
- Read the poem for the class, play our audio version, or use Text-to-Speech. As students listen, ask them to imagine what it’s like to play outside when
March is very cold or very warm. Which type of weather do they prefer? Why?

- Project or distribute the Close-Reading and Critical-Thinking Questions and discuss them as a class.

Close-Reading and Critical-Thinking Questions
(15 minutes, Skill Builder online)

- Which words rhyme in the first stanza? (rhyme) falling, calling
- What kind of March weather does the poet describe in the first two lines? (interpreting text) The poet describes cold March weather with snow falling.
- What kind of weather does the poet describe in the stanza’s last two lines? (interpreting text) The poet describes warm March weather with robins singing.
- Which words rhyme in the second stanza? (rhyme) please, freeze
- In the second stanza, what is March asked to do that a person usually does? (personification) March is asked to make a choice, to pick something.
- What does the poet ask March to pick? (main idea) She wants March to pick the weather, either warm like spring or freezing cold like winter.
- Which words rhyme in the third stanza? (rhyme) door, for
- Why does the poet describe April as March’s buddy? (interpreting text) April is the month that follows March.
- What kind of weather is April rooting for? (making inferences) April wants the March weather to be warm like spring, not cold like winter.
- Do you think “Make up your mind, March!” is a good title for this poem? Explain. (expressing an opinion) Answers will vary. Students may think it’s a good title because it sums up what the poet is asking March to do in the poem: decide if it will be a warm or cold month.

3. Skill Building

- Call on a volunteer to read the Think and Write box.
- Distribute our Personification Skill Builder. Students can brainstorm ideas for their poems with partners, then read them aloud in small groups.

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