



ANSWERS

Pathetic fallacy is when human emotions are attributed to inanimate things in nature. Pathetic fallacy is similar to personification in that it gives inanimate objects in nature the human quality of emotions. In its strictest sense, pathetic fallacy applies only to objects in nature; however, more loosely, pathetic fallacy can be applied to anything that is not considered “natural.” Personification, on the other hand, can be applied to anything, and goes beyond just attributing emotions (i.e., includes thoughts, actions, etc.) Anthropomorphism is a kind of figurative language that attributes human thoughts, actions, characteristics or emotions to animals, non-human beings, natural phenomena, or objects. With anthropomorphism, the object acts like a human being.

Used figuratively, pathetic fallacy is simply a figure of speech. It becomes a fallacy when it is taken literally. Pathos is a rhetorical device that means appealing to emotions in an argument rather than to logic or reason.