

Poetry Writing Tips and ideas

Websites to help you get your creative thinking going

- Go exploring in The Children's Poetry Archive <https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/> which is a brilliant resource where you can listen to poets reading their own work aloud as well as browsing their poems as text. The poems are sorted into age-related categories which is a good place to begin browsing.
- BBC Bitesize has good explanations and ideas for getting started on writing poems. Start here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zjhhvcw> for Reception/Year 1/Year 2 and here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4mmn39> for Year 3/4/5/6 and then follow your nose to try things that spark your creativity.
- This is another part of the BBC educational offering which might be helpful if you want a bit of support <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/english-ks1-ks2-understanding-poetry/zfvkt39> It has some video clips with ideas for writing and also to help with rhyme and so forth.
- Some people find that looking at pictures can help them come up with ideas to write about. If that's you, have a look at <https://artsandculture.google.com/explore?hl=en> where you can browse the collection using different categories including one that sorts pictures by colour which is rather lovely.

Ideas to bear in mind

Poems are for reading aloud – so think about using language with its sound in mind. Remind yourself of:

Alliteration: when words that start with the same sound (not just the same letter) are used repeatedly in a phrase or sentence. The sound is usually a consonant and the words don't have to be right next to one another.

Onomatopoeia: Words that sound like the sound they describe e.g. 'splash' and 'pop'

Rhythm: think of the pattern each word can make, and how you can play with those patterns. What is it like when you say a list of one syllable words together all in a row? Now try it again, but use words with three syllables one after the other.

Rhyme: words that end with the same sound as each other e.g. 'slime' and 'time'. Rhyme can be wonderful, but remember that not all poems have to rhyme.

Poems are wonderful places to explore thoughts and ideas in detail. You might have learnt about **simile** (comparing two things using the word 'like' or 'as' e.g. "Her voice was like a lion's roar") and **metaphor** (make a comparison between two things that aren't alike but do have something in common e.g. "His tears were a river"). Perhaps try to think of ways to introduce metaphor or simile into your poem to help you get your idea across to your audience?

Types of Poems

List poems/ shape poems/ narrative (story-telling) poems/ ballads/limericks/haiku... there are so many wonderful types of poems out there once you start looking. Try to read a few different types of poem before you decide which kind you would like to write for yourself.

Starter activities

- Make a list or map of all the ideas that come into your head when you think of the topic word that has been given to your year group. Put down all your ideas at this stage and don't worry if they don't link up or make much sense yet. Then look back at what you have written and pull out the ideas/words you find interesting enough to want to keep. Use this as your 'idea bank' when you start writing.
- For Reception or y1, perhaps a shape poem might be the place to start? Think of a shape that relates to your topic word and then write your poem to physically fit into that shape.
- Poems are messages – so before you start writing, think about what message you want to send. Do you want to make your audience feel a certain emotion? Imagine a certain image? Or think a particular thought? Then start writing with that aim in mind and choose language that will help you achieve it.

