

♥ Poetry ♥

Name Michael Phoenix

Komodo Dragons



Poetry Definitions

#1-10

1. Alliteration: The repetition of a sound in words that are close together like a tongue twister
ex: wild woolly, babbling brook, ripple of rain
2. Allusion: an implied or indirect reference to a famous place, person, event, or book
ex: I ran off to read Tom Sawyer, ^(a) to read Bob Sawyer ^(b) is it the
Do you have to change it or
3. Couplet: 2 successive lines of a verse forming a unit, or 2 lines that usually
ex: I picked up my shoe } Couplet
and I caught a bear! }
4. Figurative Language: New or original words that ~~are not~~ don't mean the standard dictionary definition. Usually a simile, metaphor, or personification
ex: ? I rangled him like a snake ?? *can you use this*
Answer:
5. Form: The structure and organization of a poem.
ex: keep a certain # of syllables in a line, # of line in a verse kept the same, or have no form
- 3A Free Verse: See Back
6. Imagery: words that can create mental pictures like how something looks, feels, smells, sounds, or tastes
ex: The bowl was full of gleaming red apples that smell freshly harvested.
7. Metaphor: Comparison of 2 different things or a simile w/o using like or as
ex: Ship plows through the sea
8. Mood: the feeling or atmosphere created by the poem
ex: a dark mood or scary or creepy like in tell-tale heart

9. Narrative Poetry: a poem that tells a story and has characters, setting, a plot, and all the parts of poetry.
ex: Tell-tall heart again tells a story

10. Onomatopoeia: words whose sound suggests their meaning
ex: buzz, pop, sizzle, hiss, bang

5A Free Verse: A poem that doesn't rhyme and doesn't have an order.
Ex: .

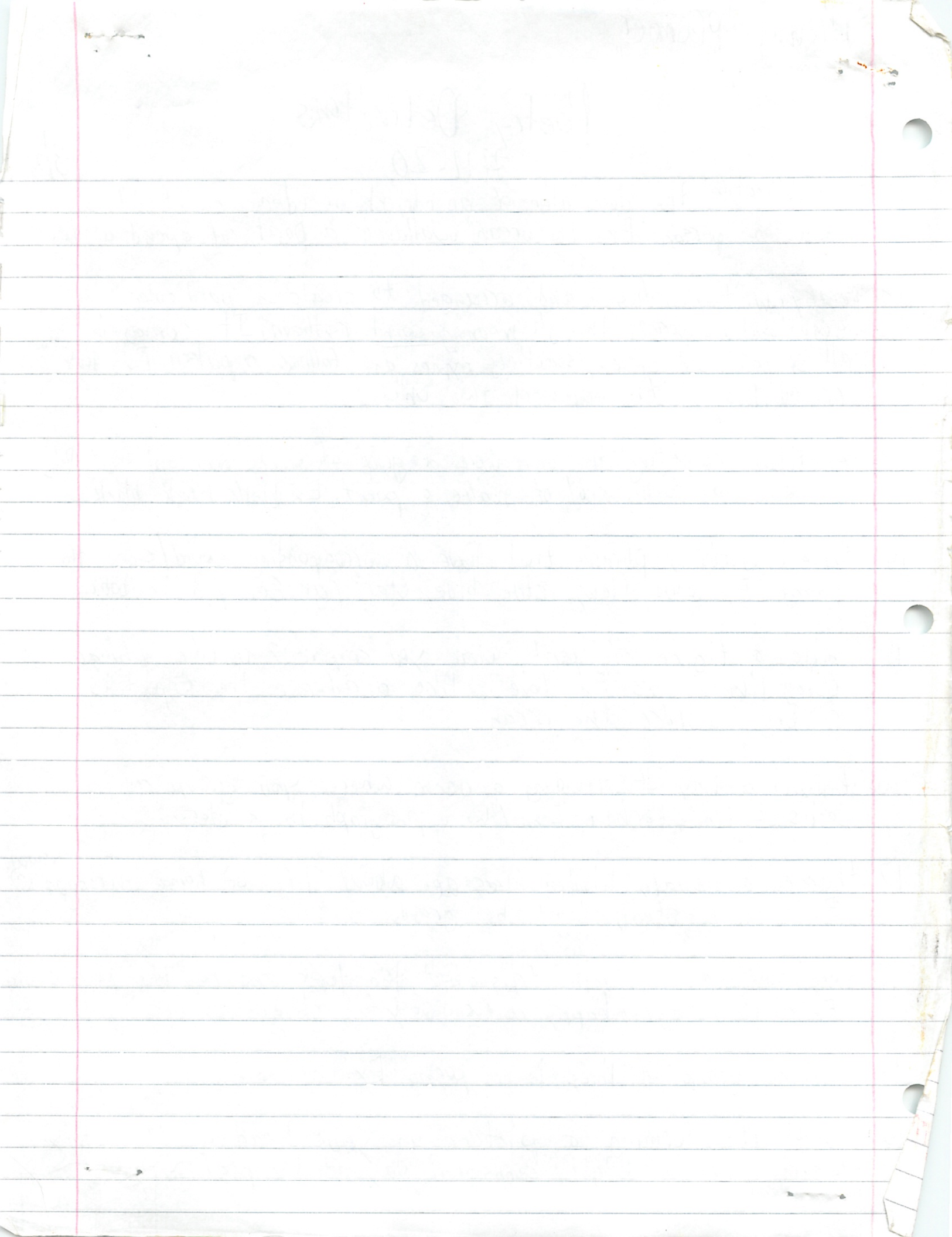
Poetry Definitions

#11-20

3/22

11. Personification: the description of an object or idea as if it was a person. Ex: the ocean swallowed a boat, cat opened a door
12. poetry: writings chosen and arranged to create a particular emotional response through meaning sound by them. It comes in all shapes and sizes, sometimes rhymes and follows a pattern. Ex: look around, this is the name of this unit
13. repetition: repeating the same words or group of words over and over. This is done to sound cool or make a point. Ex black black black
14. rhyme: words or phrases that have a corresponding sound/sound the same. Ex. blue - flew, clue - blue, star - car. See p 8 in book
15. simile: a figure of speech where you compare 2 unlike things using like or as. Ex: love is like a red rose. the airport is so big its like the ocean
16. stanza: a way of dividing a poem where you group a series of lines together. Ex. like a paragraph in a story
17. theme: a usually hidden message about life or human message ^{moral} Ex: don't steal, don't be greedy
18. tone: the way a writer feels about the topic and how the poem sounds. Ex. amused, angry, happy, confused, joyful, objective, sad
19. verse: a group of lines in a poem. Ex: a stanza
20. visualization: forming a picture in your head of the story. Ex: it was a bright sunny hot day at the pool





Poetry Glossary

1. **Alliteration:** the repetition of the same beginning consonant sounds in words that are close together. Tongue twisters use alliteration. (ripple of rain; babbling brook; Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.)
2. **Allusion:** an allusion is a reference to a famous person, place, event, or other work of literature.
3. **Analysis:** analysis is the process of breaking something down into its elements and examining each one. When you analyze a literary work, you examine its various parts in order to understand the work as a whole.
4. **Brainstorming:** freely collecting ideas; thinking of all the possibilities
5. **Choral Reading:** two or more people reading together
6. **Clustering:** grouping similar words or ideas together
7. **Concrete Poetry:** a type of poetry in which the design or shape helps add meaning or feeling to the poem
8. **Conflict:** Conflict is the struggle between two opposing forces and can be found in poems. In an external conflict, a character struggles with an outside person or force. In an internal conflict, a character struggles with him or herself.
9. **Connecting:** the process of relating the content of a literary work like a poem to your own knowledge and experience
10. **Connotation:** Connotation refers to the suggestions and associations that go along with a given word, stretching well beyond its dictionary meaning. For example, the word mother is defined as "a female parent," but for most people, the word suggests images of love, warmth, and security.
11. **Couplet:** two lines of verse in a poem that usually rhyme
12. **Denotation:** the dictionary definition of a word (see connotation)
13. **Figurative Language:** Figurative language goes beyond dictionary meanings of words to create fresh and original descriptions. The three most common forms of figurative language are the simile, the metaphor, and personification.

14. **Form:** Form is a term that describes a literary work's structure or organization. In poetry, form describes the physical arrangement of words or lines on a page. Some poems follow very predictable patterns with the same number of syllables in each line and the same number of lines in each stanza. Other poems, like E.E. Cummings's "old age sticks," have an irregular form.
15. **Formula Poetry:** a type of poem which follows a pattern
16. **Free Verse or Free Form:** poetry with no regular patterns of rhyme, rhythm, or line length. Poets often use free verse to capture the sounds and rhythms of ordinary language.
17. **Imagery:** words or phrases that appeal to the reader's senses (how things look, feel, smell, sound, and taste)
18. **Metaphor:** a comparison of two unlike things that have something in common... A metaphor does not use direct words of comparison such as like or as. For example: Love is a red rose.
19. **Mood:** the mood or atmosphere or feeling created by a literary work...
20. **Narrative Poetry:** tells a story with characters, setting, and plot with elements like rhyme, rhythm, imagery, and figurative language
21. **Onomatopoeia:** the use of words that by their sound suggest their meaning
For example: buzz, pop, sizzle
22. **Personification:** the description of an object, idea, or an animal as if it were a person
For example: The ocean swallowed the tiny boat.
23. **Poetry:** writing which comes in all shapes and sizes. Some poetry follows a pattern; some poetry rhymes; some poetry is written in words or phrases. It is unlike the writing normally done every day in school such as writing letters, reports, paragraphs, essays, and stories. This type of writing is called prose.
24. **Repetition:** repeating the same word or group of words over and over and over to emphasize an idea
25. **Rhyme:** words or verse which sound alike (blue/flew; star/car)
There can be internal rhymes in a poem or rhymes that occur within lines.
26. **Simile:** a comparison of two unlike things that have something in common. Similes make direct comparisons using like or as.
For example: Love is like a red rose.

- 27. **Stanza:** a group of lines in a poem, much like paragraphs in a story
- 28. **Syllable:** the parts of a word as it is spoken. Rain has one syllable. Sparrow has two syllables.
- 29. **Sound Effects:** alliteration, onomatopoeia, repetition, rhyme, rhythm
- 30. **Symbol:** a person, place, object, or action that stands for something outside of itself... something more than what it actually is. The bald eagle is a symbol for the United States.
- 31. **Synonym:** a word which has the same or similar meaning to another word
- 32. **Theme:** the message about life or human nature communicated in a literary work. In most cases the reader must infer the theme. A theme is universal or applies to everyone. One way to figure out the theme of a poem is to ask yourself what lessons about life or human nature are being taught.
- 33. **Thesaurus:** a dictionary of synonyms
- 34. **Tone:** a writer's attitude toward his or her subject. A tone might be amused, angry, confused, objective, joyful, etc.
- 35. **Verse:** lines or groups of lines in a poem
- 36. **Visualization:** the process of forming a mental picture from a written description. Successful readers use details supplied by the writer to picture the writing. Successful writers use details to help create these mental pictures.

My New Poetry Words

Write any new words and definitions you've learned in the space below.

Internal Rhyme - when 2 or more words in the same line rhyme

Free Verse Rhyme - when 2 words almost rhyme

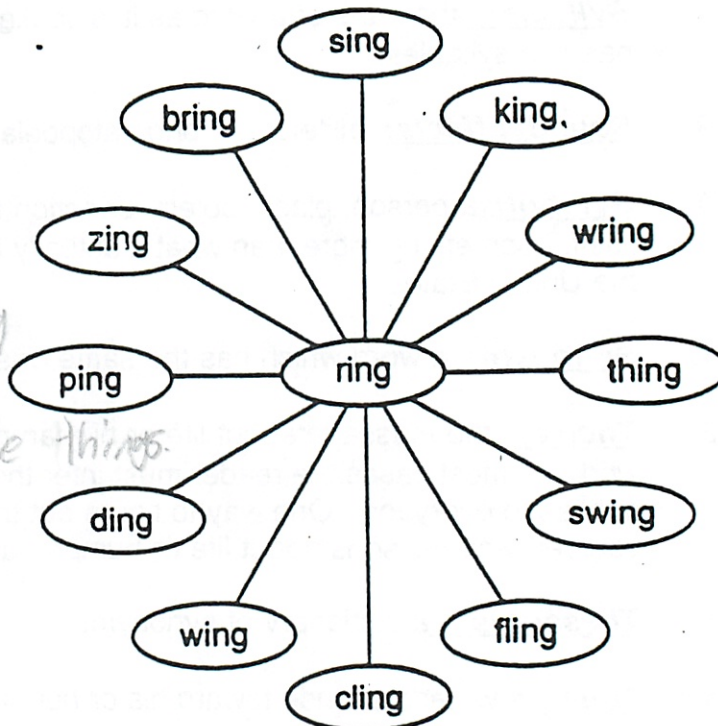
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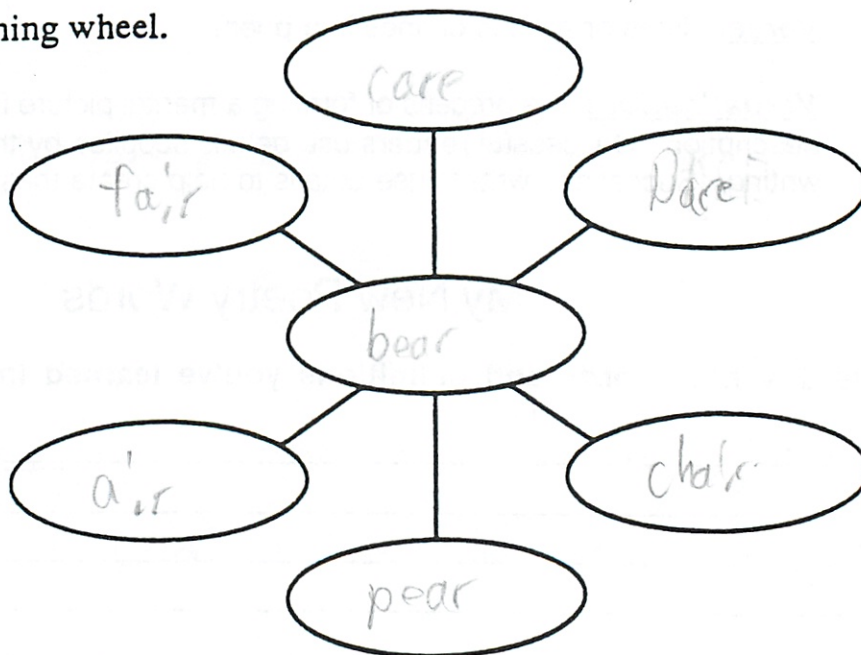
Rhyme Time

Spin the rhyme wheel. Use the rhyming words to write a poem.

I am a ring
on the hand of a king
whose name is ping.
I am one of his favorite things.



Fill in your own rhyming wheel.



Write a title for your poem.

Bear Care



Writing

RHYMING WORDS

The last words of the lines of poems do not have to sound alike
 Create a list of rhyming words to use when you write rhyming poetry

Example: night kite light white

dish fish, wish, dish

toy boy, joy, com

catch batch, latch, thach

kiss miss, kiss, dis

punk funck, sunk, dink

peek seek, cheek, week

~~Wall~~ ball, tall, fall

pink sink, wink, think

land sand, band, hand

sack black, whack, tack

blue you, Jew, two

day they, say, hay

eye gay, tie, lie

end send, bend, vend

book shook, took, hook

line time, lime, thyme

fix tick, tix, mix

dog fog, bog, hog

air pair, car, fair

roll troll, toll, poll

made made, laid, laid

nap sap, cap, tap

pine shine, line, fine

room broom, boom, assume

soil wail, tail, hail

bone tone, lone, cone

faught sought, bought, fought

fair gain, fair, dare

Care bear, fair, dare

lock black, knock, sack

gate wait, rate, slate

here beer, cheer, fear

store, lore, door, score

odd, bold, cold, gold

turn urn, churn, burn

mist list, sist, fist

hen wren, den, ten

know blow, so, toe

pin sin, gin, tin

man pan, plan, tan

green seen, seen, lean

right bite, fight, tight

wing sing, bling, ping

run bun, sun, done

see the, we, he

team seem, seam, beam

coil foul, pearl, infernal

love dove, shove, glare

cat hat, bat, sat

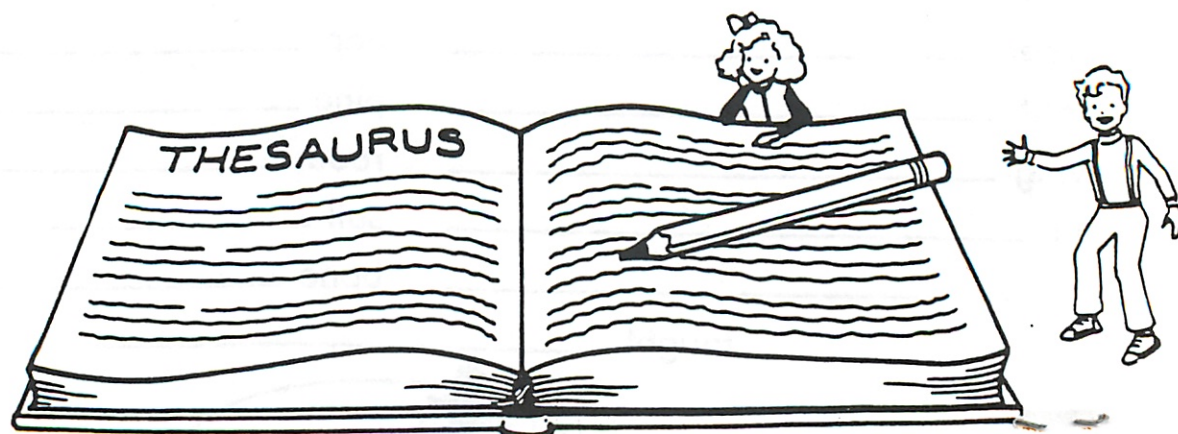
SYNONYMS ARE THE SAME!

- In poetry:
1. Every word is important.
 2. Words create clear mental pictures.

Choosing the best words to describe your ideas helps you write poetry. There are many words which can describe the same idea. For example, how would you describe a boy who was good-looking? Would you use the same word to describe a girl? A boy might be handsome. A girl might be beautiful. Words which have the same meaning are called **synonyms**. The words handsome and beautiful are synonyms.

A *thesaurus* is a dictionary of synonyms. Use a thesaurus or a regular dictionary to help you find synonyms for each of these words.

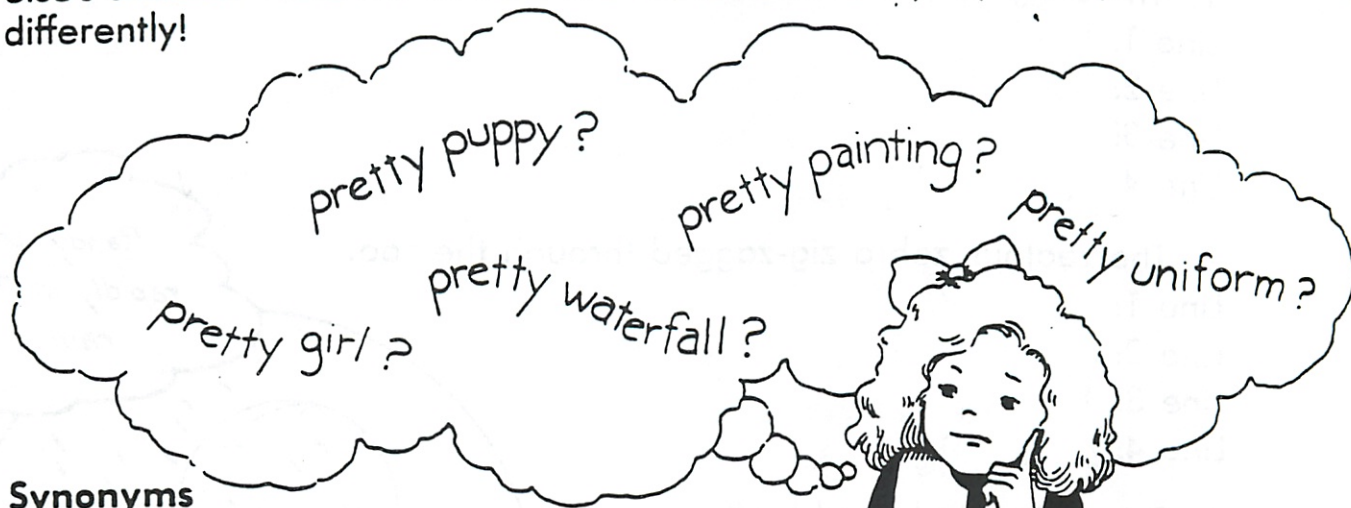
Word	Synonym	Word	Synonym
scamper	walk	chuckle	laugh
stagger	walk	unhappy	sad
sob	cry	cheerful	happy
beautiful	attractive	absent	gone
powerful	mighty	scream	yell
stare	look	cold	freezing
baby	infant	above	on top of
perfume	cologne	small	tiny
enormous	gigantic	pain	agony
smooth	silky	warm	lukewarm
shuffle	rearrange	afraid	scared
push	shove	stone	rock
tough	gritty	single	one



MORE SYNONYMS

- In poetry:
1. Every word is important.
 2. Words create clear mental pictures.

The words in the left column below are synonyms for the other words in the column. They can mean the same thing and can be used to describe the same idea. Draw a line from each word in the synonym column to the word it best describes on the right. When you're done, compare your choices with someone else's choices. Were the choices the same? Different people may choose words differently!



Synonyms

pretty	_____	puppy
breathtaking	_____	girl
attractive	_____	waterfall
cute	_____	painting
neat	_____	uniform

What do you want your reader to understand or feel from your writing? Use a thesaurus to find synonyms for the word **said**. Then fill in the blanks below.

Linda is angry at Jim.	"Stop that!"	<u>yelled</u>	Linda.
Linda is afraid of Jim.	"Stop that!"	<u>screamed</u>	Linda.
Linda thinks Jim is funny.	"Stop that!"	<u>commented</u>	Linda.

Extra Workout

Find the poem "Eletelephony" by Laura E. Richards in a book of poetry in your school or public library. The poet has invented several new words of her own in this poem. Write three of those words on the lines below.

ALLITERATION FUN

Practice writing your own tongue twisters. Follow the pattern used in the tongue twister: *The dirty dog had daisies for dinner.*

- Line 1: Statement
- Line 2: Is it true?
- Line 3: If
- Line 4: Where

The dirty dog ate daisies for dinner.
Did the dirty dog eat daisies for dinner?
If the dirty dog ate daisies for dinner,
where are the daisies the dirty dog ate?

1. The crazy cat called a cab.

- Line 1:
- Line 2: Did the crazy cat call a cab?
- Line 3: If the crazy cat called a cab
- Line 4: Where is the cab the crazy cat called

2. The zealous zebra zig-zagged through the zoo.

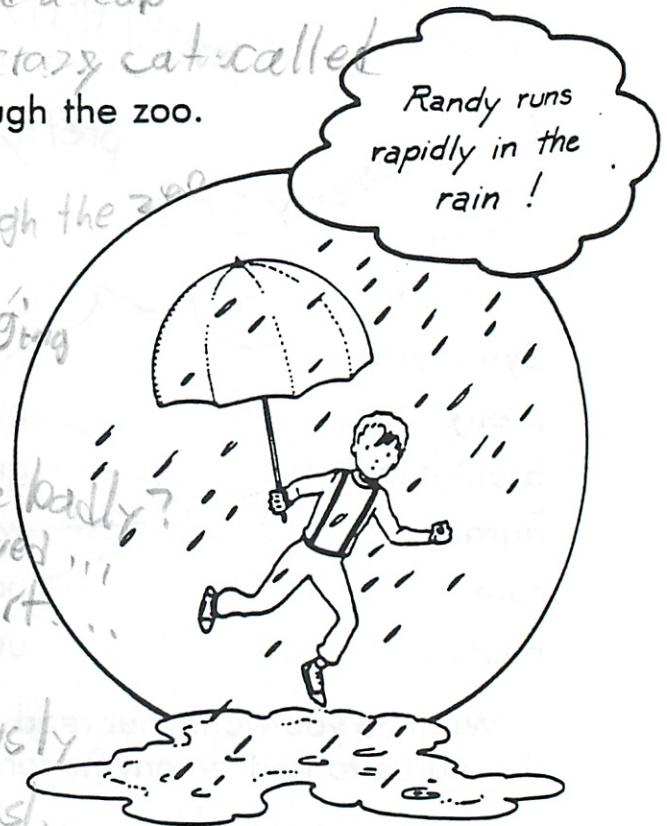
- Line 1:
- Line 2: Did the zebra zig- through the zoo
- Line 3: If the zebra zigged...
- Line 4: Where is the zebra zigging

3. Bratty Bart behaved badly.

- Line 1:
- Line 2: Did Bratty Bart behave badly?
- Line 3: If Bratty Bart behaved
- Line 4: Where did Bratty Bart

4. Falcons fly famously.

- Line 1:
- Line 2: Did falcons fly famously
- Line 3: If the falcons, fly famously
- Line 4: then where did they fly famously



Extra Workout

Write a tongue twister using the pattern above.

- Line 1: Evil Ebert egged Eric
- Line 2: Did Evil Ebert...
- Line 3: If Evil Ebert
- Line 4: then where was Eric Egged

STRANGE COMPARISONS

Answer these strange questions as imaginatively as you can.

How is a rubber band like underarm deodorant?

They are both sold in a store

How is a sad memory like a pizza?

It saggies

How is a nose like the ring of a telephone?

It makes noise

How is a howling wolf like the silence of an empty house?

You don't want to hear both of them.

How are jelly beans like irritating brothers?

I don't like any of them

There can be many

How are rainbows like aircraft carriers?

They both go from land to air

How are messed up beds like dollar bills?

They are wrinkled

How are ice cream sundaes like punishment?

Don't want too much of them.

ON-O-MAT-O-POE-IA

Sound words, such as splat, swish, or zip are words that make you think of each word's meaning. **Onomatopoeia** means "name-making." An onomatopoeia is the use of a word whose sounds make you think of its meaning. Sound words make poetry fun, interesting, and sometimes easier to understand!

You may have heard this noisy nursery rhyme as a child. Write the sound words.

" Woof , Woof "

Says the dog;

" Meow , Meow "

Says the cat.

" Onk , Onk "

Goes the hog;

And " _____ , "

Goes the rat.

" _____ , _____ , "

Says the sparrow;

" _____ , _____ , "

Says the crow.

" Quak , Quak , "

Says the duck;

And what the cuckoos say,

You know.

pet 105-6

Now it's your turn. Write an onomatopoeia for each word below.

1. rain _____
2. wind _____
3. car _____
4. train _____
5. bird _____
6. owl _____



Say these sound words out loud. Put some feeling into each "sound off." What do each of these words sound like? Your answers can be single words or a sentence.

1. buzz _____
2. zing _____
3. gushy _____
4. splat _____
5. swish _____
6. plop _____
7. rat-a-tat _____
8. oomph _____
9. conk _____
10. sizzle _____



SENSE-ABLE WORD CHOICES

A writer's job is to affect the reader as strongly as possible. The more sad, happy, satisfied, angry, annoyed, explosive, excited, etc. the reader's reaction to the piece, the more successful the writing!! One effective way to evoke a strong response in a reader is to assault his or her senses with the most vivid images possible. The images may challenge any one or more of the reader's senses—touch, taste, smell, sight, or hearing. To practice making effective word choices, select the most precise word for each sentence from the parentheses in the sentences below.



PUTRID RANCID NOXIOUS DISGUSTING
 STOMACH-TURNING REVOLTING REPULSIVE HORRIBLE NAUSEATING

1. The engine (made an awful sound, hissed and sputtered its objections)
2. A (wonderful, spicy) holiday aroma filled the warm kitchen.
3. The garbage bin emitted a (horrible, putrid) odor.
4. His coat was (old and torn, worn and tattered).
5. Her fingernails on the glass (hurt, grated against) my ears.

Add at least eight additional vivid words to each list below.

TASTE

acrid
peppery

TOUCH

gritty
rubbery

SMELL

fragrant
rancid

SIGHT

luminous
angular

SOUND

murmur
excruciating

On a separate sheet of paper, write a short piece that creates an extraordinary, sensory experience. You must address at least three of the five senses by using the most effective words possible to evoke reader response.

Name _____

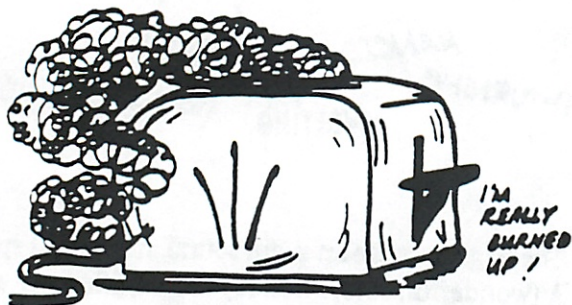
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Basic Skills/Writing 6-8

WINDS THAT SIGH & CLOUDS THAT CRY

A favorite, easy way to begin practicing the use of strong visual images is to **personify**—give human attributes and actions to—things, ideas, and qualities.

Write a human action next to each object listed below. Then expand your description by thinking about when, where, why, or how the action might happen.



Example:

- The motor coughed, choked by the bitter cold. (*why*)
- The river nestled lazily into its sandy bed. (*how*) (*where*)
- The rosebush slowly spread its toes in the warming mud of spring and sighed happily. (*how*) (*where*)

The toaster

The sun

The crowd

Numbers

The diamond

Our porch light

The traffic

The fog

A shovel

The angry sea

Skyscrapers

The mirror

A stone

Raindrops

Her raincoat

My fork

The tree

His boots

The frost

Candles

A flute

A hole

Name _____

Basic Skills/Writing 6-8*

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Shakes and Ladders

As a leaning
ladder

climber

there are careful
steps to take.

Surely nothing
can be sadder
if a careless
move you make.

Do not slither,
do not stumble
or your nerves

can come unstrung
and you well
may take

a tumble
if you miss
another rung.

If you're lost
upon a ladder
do not think
this statement
rude.

If you only
took
your bearings
you might learn
your
laddertude.

—Max Fatchen

Egg

There are
No tags, no tabs
Or wrapping paper,
Nor flaps, nor string,
Sticky tape or ribbon.
Never hidden up high
On a cupboard shelf.

Egg is a package
That can open
Itself.

—Kristine O'Connell George

Rolling Down a Hill

I'm rolling
rolling
rolling
down
hill.

I'm rolling
down a
hill.

I'm rolling
rolling
rolling
down

I'm rolling
down it
still.

I'm rolling
rolling
rolling
down

I'm rolling
down a
hill.

I'm rolling
rolling
rolling
down

But now
I'm feeling
ill.

—Colin West

I Was Walking in a Circle

I WAS
 SAID
 WRITING
 WHAT THE
 THIS IS
 READ IT
 I SHOULD
 KNEW THAT
 AND I
 HAD SOME
 ALSO
 NOTICED
 UP I
 PICKED IT
 AS I
 RED
 GREEN AND
 YELLOW
 COLORED
 PICTURE
 PRETTY
 WITH A
 COVERED
 PAPER
 SPIED A
 PIECE OF
 WHEN I
 CIRCLE
 IN A
 WALKING

— Jack Prelutsky

Elevator

DOWN

One wall
 a door,
 the
 others
 bare;
 no
 win-
 dow,
 table,
 pic-
 ture,
 chair;
 a gloom-
 y,
 tomb-
 like
 room,
 and
 small —
 no
 larger
 than
 a
 show-
 er
 stall.

more.
 or
 away
 feet
 ty
 nine-
 later
 ment
 mo-
 a
 just
 exit
 and
 door
 gle
 sin-
 its
 through
 Enter
 vator.
 ele-
 the
 room
 a
 odd
 How

— Douglas Florian

Could do with legs!
 Just think what we
 Our pearly eggs.
 Upstream we spawn
 We somersault!
 We vault!
 We jump!
 Our leaps astound!
 We bound!
 We spring!

The Salmon

Form - 1-2, 2, 1-7
I Don't Believe in Bigfoot

I don't believe in Bigfoot
Or skeletons that dance.
I don't believe in werewolves
Or zombies in a trance.
I don't believe in Martians
Or ghosts in sheets of white.
I don't believe in witches,
Who ride their brooms at night.
I don't believe in vampires
Or monsters from the sea —
And I'm hoping with my fingers crossed
They don't believe in me.

Repetitiveness

Images: Not really

Couplets

Theme: Doesn't believe in imaginary things

Tone: Powerful, flies over them — Eileen Spinelli

Eyes

In the darkness of the hall
Tiny eyes are watching me,
Shining sparks of silvered green
Watching, watching me.
Look! the cupboard has closed.
Wee, small hands, quick finger tipped,
Slipped the key out of the lock.
Nimble legs go scurrying by,
Bramble flecked in cobweb green
Whisk away before half seen.

Personification
Alteration, repetition

— J. Paget-Fredericks

Form 4-3-3

Mood: trying to supplant

Theme: Something scary in hall - heart of scorpions

Moths and Moonshine

Moths and moonshine mean to me
Magic — madness — mystery.
Witches dancing weird and wild
Mischief make for man and child.

Owls screech from woodland shades,
Moths glide through moonlit glades,

Moving in dark and secret wise
Like a plotter in disguise.

Moths and moonshine mean to me
Magic — madness — mystery.

— James Reeves

Repetitiveness

Verse
Couplet
Rhyme

Theme: scary
scary

Form 2-2-2

Rules

Do not jump on ancient uncles.

*

Do not yell at average mice.

*

Do not wear a broom to breakfast.

*

Do not ask a snake's advice.

*

Do not bathe in chocolate pudding.

*

Do not talk to bearded bears.

? Imagery *

Do not smoke cigars on sofas.

*

Do not dance on velvet chairs.

*

Do not take a whale to visit
Russell's mother's cousin's yacht.

*

And whatever else you do do
It is better you
Do not.

Tone: Strango, silly tell
Theme: Silly rules
you probably don't
do

Form: 1-1-1-1

Poetry

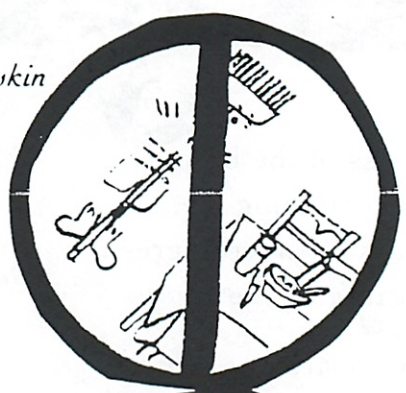
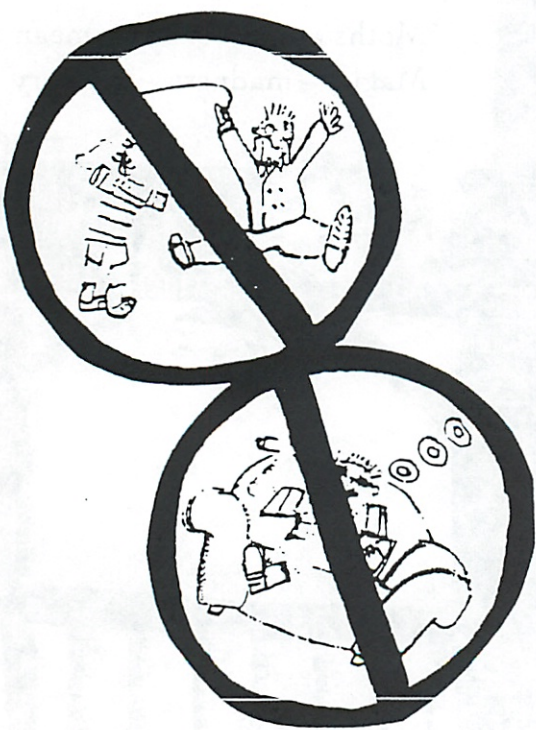
Rhyme

Rhyme

Couplet

Rhyme

- Karla Kuwkin



This Is My Rock

This is my rock,
And here I run
To steal the secret of the sun;

This is my rock,
And here come I
Before the night has swept the sky;

This is my rock,
This is the place
I meet the evening face to face.

—David McCord



Robert, Who Is Often A Stranger to Himself

Do you ever look in the looking-glass
And see a stranger there?
A child you know and do not know,
Wearing what you wear?

—Gwendolyn Brook.

Just Three

How very quiet things can be,
With just the dog, the cat, and me.
There's no one else to laugh and shout,
To dance and sing and run about.
With just the dog, the cat, and me,
How very quiet things can be.

—William Wise



hist whist

hist whist
little ghostthings
tip-toe
twinkle-toe

little twitchy
witches and tingling
goblins
hob-a-nob hob-a-nob

little hoppy happy
toad in tweeds
tweeds
little itchy mousies

with scuttling
eyes rustle and run and
hidehidehide
whisk

whisk look out for the old woman
with the wart on her nose
what she'll do to yer
nobody knows

for she knows the devil ooch
the devil ouch
the devil
ach the great

green
dancing
devil
devil

devil
devil

wheeEEE

By: e.e. cummings

(answer on the back)

1. What line stands out to you? Why?
2. Illustrate the poem in the above space to help the reader understand it.
Be prepared to explain illustrations.

Writing a Place Poem

Everyone has a favorite place, and writing a poem is an excellent way to share it with others. A place poem is a type of free-verse poem that describes a specific location. (Pages 198-200 in your handbook offer helpful information about writing free-verse poetry.)

Directions

Read "Knoxville, Tennessee" by Nikki Giovanni and picture in your mind all the different images that appeal to your senses. Choose your own special place and, on the lines provided, begin collecting images about it. Freewrite for 5-10 minutes, or cluster your thoughts on your own paper. After you have enough images and details, focus on one idea. Nikki focused on the idea of Knoxville in summer. Write your first draft on your own paper.

Knoxville, Tennessee

I always like summer
 best
 you can eat fresh corn
 from Daddy's garden
 and okra
 and greens
 and cabbage
 and lots of
 barbecue
 and buttermilk
 and homemade ice cream
 at the church picnic
 and listen to
 gospel music
 outside
 at the church
 homecoming
 and go to the mountains with
 your grandmother
 and go barefooted
 and be warm
 all the time
 not only when you go to bed
 and sleep

^{The Dominican Republic}
 the hot, humid days
 the fractured roof
 the blue pool
 the people sitting around
 the always stacked buffet
 the little rooms
 in little buildings
 Now outside the hotel,
 the dirt roads
 the blue shacks
 the trash heaps
 and the people on donkeys
 the little children waving
 saying hallow
 too bad its time to go
 how

less Thes
 Add

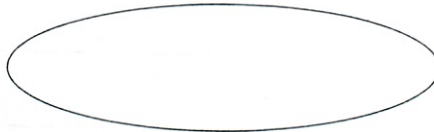
Writing Poetry

Writing poetry can be fun. But because poems are short, you have to find the best words to convey your message. As with any kind of writing, it is important to choose a subject you care about.

Directions

Find a subject for a free-verse poem (no regular rhyme or rhythm needed). Consider special memories, holidays, nature, pets, or people. Write your subject in the circle below and cluster ideas around it.

See Previous
Page for
Poem



Directions

Look over your cluster to find the most interesting idea or image. Make this the main focus of your poem. You might use this idea in the first line of your poem. On your own paper, write the first draft freely, not worrying about form. Your poem may be made up of sentences, or it may be a list of words or phrases. Be sure to include strong images that appeal to the senses. (Refer to "Writing" on page 199 in your handbook for help.)



Next Step Revise and edit the first draft of your free-verse poem according to the guidelines on pages 199-200 of your handbook. Write your final draft and share it with your classmates.

Writing a Place Poem

Everyone has a favorite place, and writing a poem is an excellent way to share it with others. A place poem is a type of free-verse poem that describes a specific location. (Pages 198-200 in your handbook offer helpful information about writing free-verse poetry.)

Directions

Read "Knoxville, Tennessee" by Nikki Giovanni and picture in your mind all the different images that appeal to your senses. Choose your own special place and, on the lines provided, begin collecting images about it. Freewrite for 5-10 minutes, or cluster your thoughts on your own paper. After you have enough images and details, focus on one idea. Nikki focused on the idea of Knoxville in summer. Write your first draft on your own paper.

Knoxville, Tennessee
 I always like summer
 best
 you can eat fresh corn
 from Daddy's garden
 and okra
 and greens
 and cabbage
 and lots of
 barbecue
 and buttermilk
 and homemade ice cream
 at the church picnic
 and listen to
 gospel music
 outside
 at the church
 homecoming
 and go to the mountains with
 your grandmother
 and go barefooted
 and be warm
 all the time
 not only when you go to bed
 and sleep

Writing a Riddle Poem

A riddle poem is a type of free-verse poem. The poet compares one object, animal, or idea to another. By studying the clues found in the poem's images, the reader discovers what two ideas are being compared.

Directions

Read the following poems to discover the answer to the riddle each presents. Fill in the blanks below.

I Like to See It Lap the Miles

I like to see it lap the miles,
And lick the valleys up,
And stop to feed itself at tanks;
And then, prodigious, step

Around a pile of mountains,
And, supercilious, peer
In shanties by the sides of roads;
And then a quarry pare

To fit its ribs,
And crawl between,
Complaining all the while
In horrid, hooting stanza;
Then chase itself down hill

And neigh like Boanerges;
Then, punctual as a star,
Stop—docile and omnipotent—
At its own stable door.

—Emily Dickinson

White Blitz

Packs of them darting across the
snow—
sleek and powerful predators.
Their constant howl riles farmers
and harries rabbits, dogs, and deer.
Fence rows, and country roads
guide them
as they boldly snarl into the night,
these greedy nomads of winter.

Note: *Boanerges* was possibly the name of a famous horse at the time this poem was written.

1. In "I Like to See It Lap the Miles," what does Emily Dickinson compare to a powerful horse? A cow
2. The author compares Snow mobile to a pack of wolves in "White Blitz."



Directions

With another student or in a small group, brainstorm about ideas for a riddle poem. After choosing an idea, freewrite to discover some of the details and images connected with your subject. Use the space provided. Remember to include details that appeal to the senses. Then work together to write the first draft of your riddle poem.

A series of horizontal lines providing space for writing the first draft of the riddle poem.



Next Step Revise and edit your riddle poem according to the guidelines on pages 199-200 of your handbook. Write your final draft to share with the class.

My Poems

Writing poetry makes you more aware of the words you use; and this careful sifting of the language, to leave only the right word on paper, will help you in all your writing.

Directions

Look through the short invented forms of poetry on pages 206-207 of your handbook. Choose two forms and write your first drafts below.

Directions

Now read about the more challenging traditional forms of poetry on pages 204-205 of your handbook. Choose one form and write a first draft below.



Next Step Revise and edit your first drafts according to the guidelines on pages 199-200 of your handbook. Of all the poems you've written recently, pick one to share in a special way. See the suggestions for how to do this on page 201 of your handbook.

BEING MALE

Gender Poems

DO YOU THINK

Someone might say being male,

a man

a rough-hearted

guy

is just like being

an animal

a boar

a vulture

that flies in the sky.

Up high he flies

then soars down low

to pick at the bones of all the animals he disposes of.

But guys, we're not like that

cruel,

mean,

harsh.

We're sensitive

caring,

and kind . . .

And if you look further,

just that little bit further,

You might even find

Someone that loves,

And someone that cares,

And maybe he's just a guy . . .

(from the Lawrence School, Brookline, MA)

One, happy, explaining how people are wrong
works hard to make point

Good

Do you think

that being a woman

is pretty, prim, and precise?

Showing off your body,

firting with the guys

Putting on mascara

So it covers your beautiful eyes

Driving around with your rich boyfriend

girl wrote it

That's all very well

Are you all trying to impress us?

Well you're not doing so well . . .

(from the Lawrence School, Brookline, MA)

Live this style better.

UNCERTAINTY

My relatives tell me to act ladylike: *Change*

I can't

swear

punch people

wear jeans with rips or

get a crew cut (not like I wanted one).

I must

wear ~~dresses~~ *designer clothes*

drink tea, with one lump of sugar

sew *call*

cook *DM*

act dainty: *act caring + polite*

Some of my friends tell me to act like a girl.

I can't

beat up my enemies

sit with boys at lunch (without getting teased)

laugh at things boys think are funny.

I must

giggle when a guy talks to me

be boy-crazy

talk about boys, not horses

eat salad to maintain my slim figure (huh?).

Why can't I be

Me?

(Cathy Holland, Williamstown, MA, grade 8)

 ACTIVITIES

CLASS ACTIVITY: Create!

Write your own poem about what it means to you to be male or female, a boy or girl, man or woman.

All the World's a Stage

William Shakespeare

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages. At first, the infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.
Then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,
Full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard,
Jealous in honor, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,
In fair round belly with good capon lined,
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances;
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slippered pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;
His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide
For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice,
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

Casey at the Bat

Ernest Lawrence Thayer

The outlook wasn't brilliant for the Mudville nine that day;

The score stood four to two with but one inning more to play.

And then when Cooney died at first and Barrows did the same,

A sickly silence fell upon the patrons of the game.

A straggling few got up to go in deep despair. The rest
Clung to the hope which springs eternal in the human
breast;

They thought if only Casey could but get a whack at that--
We'd put up even money now with Casey at the bat.

But Flynn preceded Casey, as did also Jimmy Blake,
And the former was a lulu and the latter was a cake;
So upon that stricken multitude grim melancholy sat,
For there seemed but little chance of Casey's getting to
the bat.

But Flynn let drive a single, to the wonderment of all,
And Blake, the much despised, tore the cover off the ball;
And when the dust had lifted, and the men saw what had
occurred~

There was Jimmy safe at second and Flynn a-hugging third.

Then from five thousand throats and more there rose a
lusty yell;

It rumbled through the valley, it rattled in the dell;
It knocked upon the mountain and recoiled upon the flat,
For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.

There was ease in Casey's manner as he stepped into his place;
There was pride in Casey's bearing and a smile on Casey's face.
And when, responding to the cheers, he lightly doffed his hat,
No stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas Casey at the bat.

Ten thousand eyes were on him as he rubbed his hands with dirt;
Five thousand tongues applauded when he wiped them on his shirt
Then while the writhing pitcher ground the ball into his hip,
Defiance gleamed in Casey's eye, a sneer curled Casey's lip.

And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,
And Casey stood a-watching it in haughty grandeur there.
Close by the sturdy batsman the ball unheeded sped--
"That ain't my style," said Casey. "Strike one," the umpire said.

From the benches, black with people, there went up a muffled roar,
Like the beating of the storm waves on a stern and distant shore.
"Kill him! Kill the umpire!" shouted someone on the stand;
And it's likely they'd have killed him had not Casey raised his hand.

With a smile of Christian charity great Casey's visage shone;
He stilled the rising tumult; he bade the game go on;
He signaled to the pitcher, and once more the spheroid flew;
But Casey still ignored it, and the umpire said, "Strike two."

"Fraud!" cried the maddened thousands, and echo answered,
"Fraud!"

But one scornful look from Casey and the audience was
awed.

They saw his face grow stern and cold, they saw his
muscles strain,
And they knew that Casey wouldn't let that ball go by
again.

The sneer is gone from Casey's lip, his teeth are clenched
in hate;

He pounds with cruel violence his bat upon the plate.
And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,
And now the air is shattered by the force of Casey's blow.

Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining
bright;

The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are
light,

And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children
shout;

But there is no joy in Mudville--mighty Casey has struck
out.

Ode on the death of a favorite cat

Thomas Gray

Twas on a lofty vase's side,
Where China's gayest art had dyed
 The azure flowers that blow;
Demurest of the tabby kind,
The pensive Selima, reclined,
 Gazed on the lake below.

Her conscious tail her joy declared;
The fair round face, the snowy beard,
 The velvet of her paws,
Her coat, that with the tortoise vies,
Her ears of jet, and emerald eyes,
 She saw; and purred applause.

Still had she gazed; but 'midst the tide
Two angel forms were seen to glide,
 The genii of the stream:
Their scaly armor's Tyrian hue
Through richest purple to the view
 Betrayed a golden gleam.

The hapless nymph with wonder saw:
A whisker first and then a claw,
 With many an ardent wish,
She stretched in vain to reach the prize.
What female heart can gold despise?
 What cat's averse to fish?

Presumptuous maid! with looks intent
Again she stretched, again she bent,
 Nor knew the gulf between.
(Malignant Fate sat by and smiled)
The slippery verge her feet beguiled,
 She tumbled headlong in.

Eight times emerging from the flood
She mewed to every watery god,
 Some speedy aid to send.
No dolphin came, no Nereid stirred;
Nor cruel Tom, nor Susan heard;
 A favorite has no friend!

From hence, ye beauties, undeceived,
Know, one false step is ne'er retrieved,
 And be with caution bold.
Not all that tempts your wandering eyes
And heedless hearts, is lawful prize;
 Nor all that glisters, gold.

The Road Not Taken

Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

