

# Writing Poetry

## 1. Sound Poems

### Example: The Supermarket

Trolleys banging,  
Mammies talking,  
Music playing,  
Babies crying,  
Registers ringing,  
I want to go home.

## 2. Acrostics

Write the title vertically on the left hand side of the page, each letter represents a word and can then be added to form a sentence. For younger children you can begin by using their name, family, pets, animals, birds, etc. Develop the theme for older children by using feeling/emotions or other abstract ideas.

### Example: Granny

Gardening all of the time  
Rubs my knee when I fall  
And makes yummy food  
Never yells at me,  
Never complains,  
Yes I love my granny.

## 3. Rhyming Couplets

Children first need a lot of practice with rhyming words, e.g. songs and nursery rhymes. It is important to brainstorm rhyming words with the children before you begin e.g. bear, there, where, lair, mare, hair, chair, glare, pear, pair, stair, tear, wear etc

### Examples:

Humpty Dumpty went to the shop  
To buy himself a ...lollipop

A fat cat  
Sat on a ..... mat

I like jam  
With a piece of ..... ham

## 4. Alphabet Poems

Ask children to think of adjectives, going from a-z to describe something

Example: The teacher's cat.

The teacher's cat is an awful cat  
The teacher's cat is a beautiful cat  
The teacher's cat is a creepy cat etc.

This game can also be played using the names of the pupils

My name is Debra and I like doughnuts  
My name is Tom and I hate tomatoes etc.

## **5. Free Poems**

It is important that children remember that poems don't always have to rhyme in order to be a poem

I Like Nature  
Flowers come with nature.  
Trees come with nature.  
We come with nature.

## **6. Colour Poems**

Colour poems can be written and developed right through the school. When writing colour poems with junior classes just repeat the colour at the beginning of each sentence. Get the children to brainstorm things that are this colour e.g.

Black  
Black is my cat  
Black is burnt wood  
Black is the night sky

## **7. Adjective Poems**

In this instance we repeat the title three times on the first and last lines of the poem and at the end of each line in the poem.

Sailing  
Sailing, sailing, sailing  
Silently sailing,  
Swiftly sailing,  
Surely sailing  
Sailing, sailing, sailing

## **8. Limericks**

In limericks line one, two and five rhymes, and line three and four rhymes.

In a castle that had a deep moat  
Lived a chicken a duck and a goat.  
They wanted to go out

And wander about  
But they didn't have a boat.

## 9. Cinquains

These poems have five lines:

Line 1: 1 noun

Line 2: 2 related adjectives

Line 3: 3 descriptive gerunds (verb + -ing)

Line 4: 1 complete, related sentence

Line 5: 1 noun (a synonym of first noun)

### Example: War

War

Sad, destructive

Killing, injuring, destroying

A thing that kills life.

Terminator

## 10. Haiku

This is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. The first two lines make a statement and in the final line these two statements are combined.

Line 1: 5 syllables

Line 2: 7 syllables

Line 3: 5 syllables

### Example:

Falling to the ground

I watch a leaf settle down

In a bed of brown