

Lesson Plan - Poetry (Rhyming Couplets and Haiku)

Re: @princeandtiger - You can't always have cheese - Page 4

Learning question:

- How do I write poetry?

Learning objectives:

- To be able to write poetry.
- To be able to write with rhythm (and rhyme) .

Learning outcome:

- Produce a poem or series of poems.
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STARTER ACTIVITY: Write out some pairs of words that rhyme. E.G. cat and hat / ring and sing.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY: Write out some groups of more than 2 words that rhyme.

E.G. cat, hat, mat, sat / ring, sing, something, thing, wing.

MINI TASK 1: Write some rhyming clauses/sentences.

(You can use words that you/we have already written down and/or think of some new words.)

E.G. The cat put on the hat. [Or extended... The cat put on the hat then sat down on the mat.]

Counting (and matching the amount of) syllables can help to give the desired rhythm and flow to poetry.

What is a syllable? A syllable can be described as a unit of pronunciation or part of a word that contains a single (vowel) sound. You could think of syllables as 'beats' of a word. The amount of letters in a word or part of a word does not necessarily correlate to the amount of syllables. For example, an 8 letter word like 'straight' has just 1 syllable while a 3 letter word like 'ivy' has 2 syllables (the i sound and the v sound if you wanted to break it down) .

Look at the following 2 lines:

To keep themselves calm they will laugh and sing
when making their way to the wrestling ring

MINI TASK 2: Count the syllables or beats in the (above) 2 lines.

One way we can count syllables is by clapping as we speak the words. For example, the 2 words 'to keep' both contain 1 beat or 1 syllable each. When saying the 2 words together, we would clap 2 times (once each time we say each of the words) .

When we get to the word 'themselves' we would clap 2 times for the 1 word because there is 2 syllables... them and selves. We clap once for 'them' and once for 'selves'. That is 4 syllables so far for the first 3 words. The last 6 words of the line, 'calm they will laugh and sing' all consist of just 1 syllable each giving the line a total of 10 syllables.

The next line, 'when making their way to the wrestling ring' also consists of 10 syllables. You might have noticed that there is 9 words in the first line and only 8 words in the second line but that does not matter. It is the matching amount of syllables that helps the rhythm and flow of the poetry.

MAIN TASK 1: Write 2 lines with rhyming words at the end of both. Try to have a similar amount of beats / syllables in each line.

EXTENSION TASK: Write 2 lines with rhyming words at the end of both that have a matching amount of syllables. Many poets have written rhyming couplets with 10 syllables in each line. Can you?

WELL DONE, YOU HAVE JUST WRITTEN A RHYMING COUPLET.

MAIN TASK 2: Write a series of rhyming couplets with a linked theme to create a whole poem.
DIFFERENTIATION BY OUTCOME (I.E. Length of poem)

BUT poetry doesn't always have to rhyme...

As said before, counting syllables can help to give the desired rhythm and flow to poetry.

HAIKU is a (3 line) short form of traditional Japanese poetry that follows a set amount of syllables.

Though you can alter the rule slightly, the popular rule for haiku is to have 5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line and 5 syllables again in the third line.

Haiku is often written about nature but here is a haiku poem written by Prince Rishi and Tiger Raj about their favourite topic... wrestling:

When the bell goes ding (5 syllables)
we are ready in the ring (7 syllables)
only one can win (5 syllables)

Each of the 5 words in the first line have 1 syllable so the whole line has 5 syllables.

The word 'ready' in the second line has 2 syllables. The other 5 words in the line have 1 syllable each, so the second line consists of 7 syllables in total.

The word 'only' in the third line has 2 syllables. The other 3 words in the line have 1 syllable each so the third line has 5 syllables like the first line, even though it consists of only 4 words (unlike the first line which consists of 5 words). Remember, it is the syllables that counts.

Though the above poem has some rhyme, traditional haiku doesn't rhyme... it is more about the syllables.

MAIN TASK 3: Try writing a haiku poem of your own. If you need inspiration, do what many of the past haiku poets have done and think about nature and animals.

EXTENSIONS: Experiment with the amount of syllables in order to help the rhythm and flow of the poem. How has what you have changed helped the rhythm/flow? Why do you think the popular haiku format is 5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables (17 total) ? Would including some rhyme enhance your haiku poetry?

PLENARY TASK: Read your poem(s) out loud. Pause when appropriate but try to read it out in one go so that you can get a good feel of the rhythm and flow of the poem.

Does your poetry flow nicely? How could you improve your poetry (this time and next time) ?