

Teaching with Poetry & Picture Books

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What is a poem?

A Definition

A poem
Rhyme salad
Chopped by the word processor,
Garnished with pictures,
Sprinkled with adjectives,
Tossed by a poet-chef.

A poem
Gordon & Bernice Korman, *The D-Minus Poems of Jeremy Bloom*



What makes a poem a poem?

Uses vivid language

- Unique view
- Poetic devices i.e. metaphor, simile, alliteration, onomatopoeia, etc
- Language patterns - Free verse



Creates images in the mind

Evokes emotions



Reading Poetry Enhances Learning

*intensive & extensive vocabulary

*develops comprehension via noticing details, metaphor, nuances of language, rhythm and rhyme



*student interest and enthusiasm



Reading & Writing Poetry

➤ Develops Vocabulary & Comprehension

- Exposure to new words
- Involves inferring meaning
- Encourages comparing & contrasting
- Examples of creative descriptions & novel insights and ideas
- Limits attention to conventions: grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, keeps spelling!

The Turkey Shot out of the Oven Jack Prelutsky
Quatrain



The turkey shot out of the oven
and rocketed into the air,
It knocked every plate off the table
And partly **demolished** a chair.

It **ricocheted** into a corner

And burst with a deafening boom
Then splattered all over the kitchen
Completely **obscuring** the room.

It stuck to the walls and the windows,
it totally coated the floor,
there was turkey attached to the ceiling,
where there'd never been turkey before.

The Turkey Shot out of the Oven Jack Prelutsky

It blanketed every **appliance**,
it smeared every saucer and bowl,
there wasn't a way I could stop it,
that turkey was out of control.



I scraped and I scrubbed with displeasure,
and thought with **chagrin** as I mopped,
that I'd never again stuff a turkey
with popcorn that hadn't been popped

Limericks

Oh, there once was a teacher of math
Who said, "Length is like measuring a path
Tile squares cover tops
And cubes look like blocks
But volume's like filling a bath.



There once was a teacher of science
Whose students were full of compliance.
Predict and explore
Strive to see more
Curiosity out weighs reliance

In summer gardens
sunflowers
hold
yellow faces
to the sky
their stiff-crowned seeds
hardpacked
in flying spirals
curving
clockwise and counter-
clockwise Count
the whirling 55 the
dizzy spinning 89 —
the rows and
rows of old Italian
arithmetic!

Fibonacci Principle

Math & Science in
Poetry

Esbensen, Barbara J.
(1996)
Echoes for the Eye
HarperCollins

Free Verse —
Content Oriented
Realistic Visuals

Haiku

Triangle Haiku

Three pointy corners,
Three sides that touch each other
Sides equal or not.

Haiku

five syllables
seven syllables
five syllables

by 5th grade student



Golden summer sun
Turns glistening green grass, brown
and white skin crimson

Social Studies--Diamantes



Abe Lincoln
president, smart
producing, determined, loving
important, active, patriotic, clever
loving, sneaking, needing
fugitive freedom-lover
Harriet Tubman



Harriet Tubman
fugitive, patriotic
caring, loving, sneaking
died, movers, active, helpers
helping, working, strict
explorer, westward
Meriwether Lewis



Poetry Patterns ---Diamante

Encourage compare and contrast:

Noun 1 (N1)
 2 adjectives for N 1
 3 participles –ing or –ed words for N1
 4 adjectives or nouns to fit N1 and N2
 3 participles –ing or –ed words for N2
 2 adjectives for N2
 Noun 2

Jon Scieszka & Lane Smith. (2004) *Science Verse*

THE SENSELESS LAB OF PROFESSOR REVERE

Listen, my children, and you shall hear,
 Of how loud noises go in your ear.


And look, my youngsters, bright lights will be
 The way you figure out how you see.

And feel, my students. Is that too much?
 With gopher guts, you learn about touch.

And chew, my kiddies. Oh, what a waste.
 That frog-eye stew was for you to taste.

And sniff, my scientists. Ain't it just swell
 How ten-year-old cheese demonstrates smell?

So those are your senses. Class is done.
 Next week—diseases! Won't that be fun?



Lobster by Joy N. Hulm

He's upside down and inside out;
 He's backwards and he's sideways.
 His bones are out; his skin is in;
 He lives in ocean tide ways.
 He walks on hairy, spindly legs
 That smell and breathe and hear,
 And scurries backward in retreat
 Whenever danger's near.
 His jaws chew sideways, but his teeth
 Are found inside his tummy;
 And while he gobbles fishy fare,
 His feet taste if it's yummy. . . .

in Cullinan, Scala, Schroder (1995)
 Three Voices: An invitation to poetry across the curriculum

Shaped or Concrete Poems

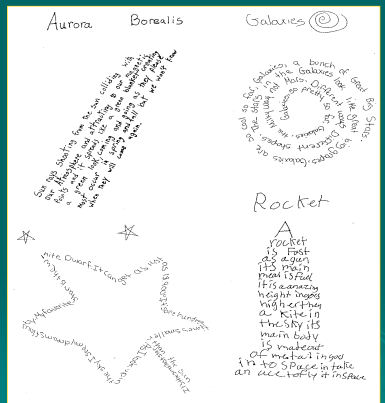
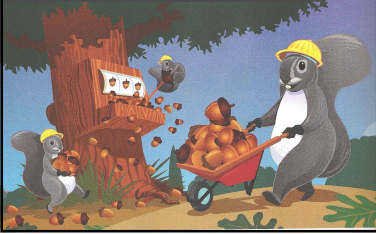


Figure 4. Shaped poems written by students during science class.

Seven Heaven

Seven doesn't take much time,
 Even though it is a prime.
 Here is all you have to do,
 First times 5, then add times 2!

Greg Tang
 2002
The Best of Times
 Scholastic



Words, Words, Words by Mary O'Neill

Period
 When you come to the end of a written
 thought
 You just sign-off with a polka dot.

Question Mark
 Symbol of all I wish I knew
 Polka dot under a curlicue . . . ?

Free Verse

The Eagle



The constellation of the Eagle soars in the sky.
When I look, it sparkles in my eye. It is
as strong as the black hole as
it grabs a fish shape
in the sky.
And then, I say, "Sigh boy, I wish I could fly."
6th grade, Native American Indian boy.

Free Verse Try it, You'll Write It

- Emphasizes creating an image or feeling by using words
 - Line breaks provide emphasis
 - Some are lists, some more story-like
 - No rhyme scheme
 - No structured meter

Picture Books for Content Areas

- Read Visuals & Text
 - Compliment & complement each other
- Text Features
 - Accuracy of information !!
 - Fonts
 - Arrangement
 - Quality
 - Language

Picture Books for Content Areas

- Visuals Complement Text
- Graphic Novels - Maus 1 & 2
- Quality of Visuals
 - Photography – real or photoshopped
 - Drawings & paintings– realism when used for content area – slaves wearing white, Thanksgiving
 - Diagrams – not left to right
 - Collages

Multicultural Picture Books

- Culturally Responsive Authentic Text
 - "a piece of fiction or nonfiction that illuminates the authentic cultural experiences of a particular group—whether it addresses religion, socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation or geographic location. The language, situations, and illustrations must depict culture in an authentic manner." Sharroky Hollie, *Literacy Today*, May/June 2019.
more at responsivereads.com

Poetry & Content Writing

Sources:

www.poetryfoundation.com

www.readwritethink.org

www.npr.org

A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms by Paul Janeczko

Poetry Workshop for Middle School by Michelle Ambrosini & Teresa Morrette

Three Voices by Cullinen, Scala & Schroder

A Jar of Tiny Stars NCTE, ed. B. Cullinen

Space Songs by Myra Cohen Livingston