

Poetry

All types of art can be used as an inspiration for poetry. A good starting point is to have children use all their senses to experience the work of art. Keep in mind that not all poems rhyme and that not all poems have to be made out of complete sentences!

For very young children, there are several ways to create a poem. One is to collect a list of words from the students related to the subject and to put them together into a word poem (e.g. Fire - hot, fiery, red, burning, etc.). They should use all their senses! One way to organize the poem is to do an acrostic poem together, with each child contributing one word that goes with the beginning letters:

Example:

Flame, fierce, fiery
Ignited
Red, raging, roaring
Exciting

For older children, another method is to work with rhymes – e.g. come up with fire words and find rhymes and build your poem from there.

e.g. heat and feet fire and higher smoke and choke

Acrostic poems are another good method with this age level (see above)

There are several simple types of poetry that older children can create on their own.

One is Japanese Haiku, which was often used to describe nature and feeling and does not need to rhyme. Haiku has seventeen syllables total, five in the first line, seven in the second line, 5 in the third line.

E.g.

Snow whispering down
All day long earth has vanished
Leaving only sky.
Joso

Simile and metaphor poems can be written as a group or separately. Similes use like or as. The students should begin by looking at fire. Each student can write one line and they can be put together or a student may write several lines on their own.

Topic		Adjective		Comparative noun
Prairie Fire	is as	hot	as	Hades
	is as	fast	as	a stampeding bison
	is as	dangerous	as	tornadoes

For more advanced students:
To begin a metaphor poem start with

A fire is like _____. Then develop a reason why, being as descriptive as possible. Then take “like” out.

E.g.

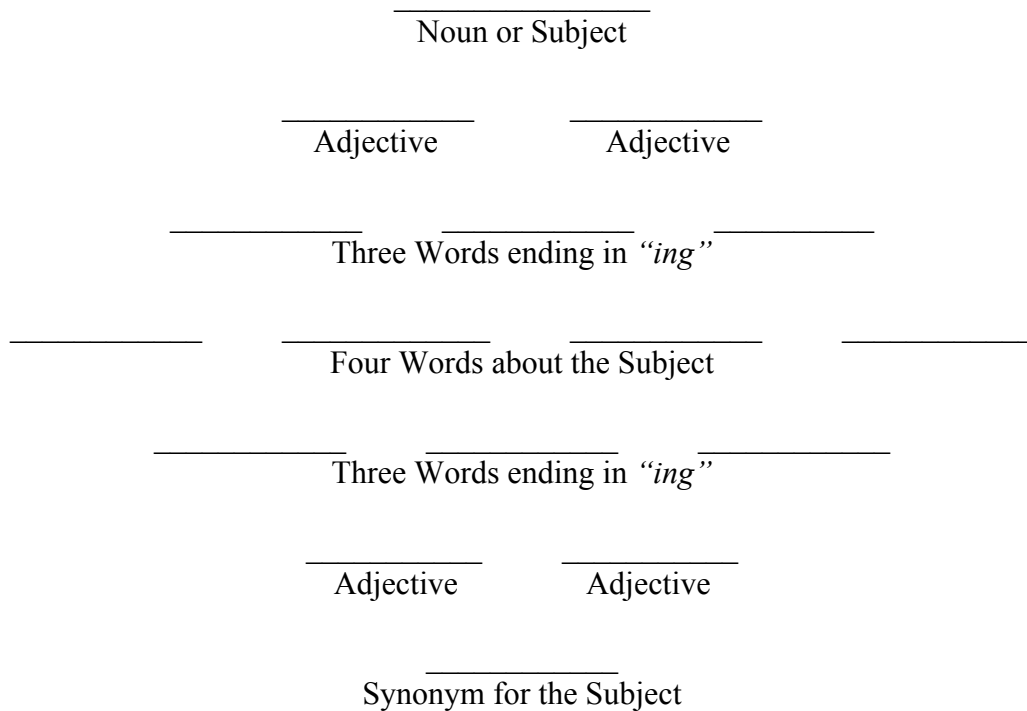
A prairie fire is like a stampeding bison because it moves quickly, destroys what is in its path, and has fiery hot breath.

A prairie fire is a stampeding bison,
 Its fiery hot breath, moving quickly,
 Destroying whatever is in its path.

Each student should start with the same word and develop several metaphors to complete the poem.

Diamante

The text of the poem is printed or written in the shape of a diamond. Use your five senses for inspiration. The poem is written using the following structure:



EXAMPLE

Grasses
windy wide
bending swaying breathing
yellow sea against sky
whipping singing dancing
tall golden
Prairie