

A taste of poetry for young learners

Read the following poems with a partner and find out the characteristics of the different types of poems. Underline the typical features in the sample poems and write your own “RULE” for each of the poems.

Then try your hand at writing your own poems.

Recipe Poems

Recipe for a dragon

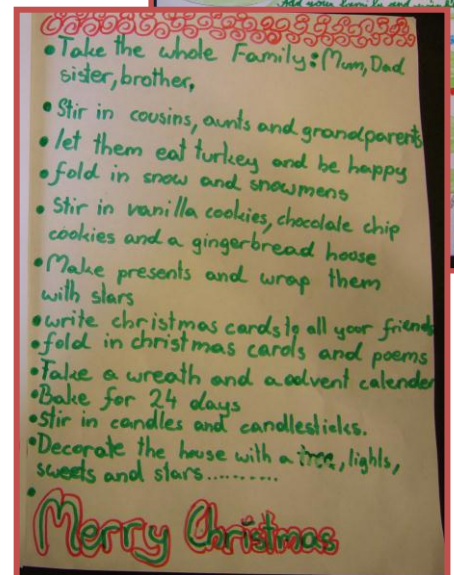
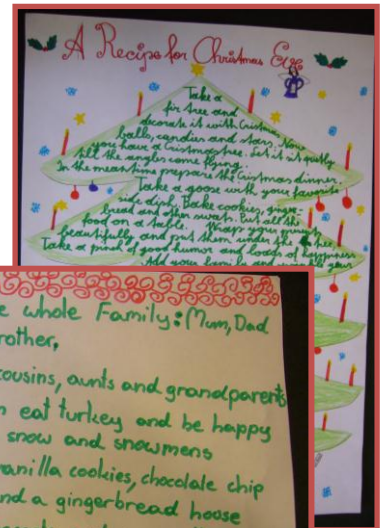
Take a head as red-hot as fire,
A body as tough as steel
And spikes and claws as sharp as razor blades.

Add scales that cover the body like a knight in armor,
Wings as strong as a fighter plane
And a tail that whips and thrashes the air

Decorate with eyes flashing like lightning,
Teeth as cold as icicles

Stir in breath as fiery as a volcano.
Put in a hot oven
And bake for a hundred years –
And you have made a DRAGON!

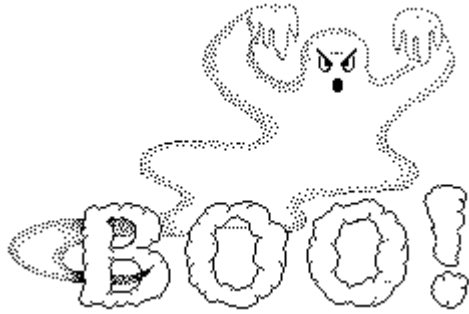
BEWARE!



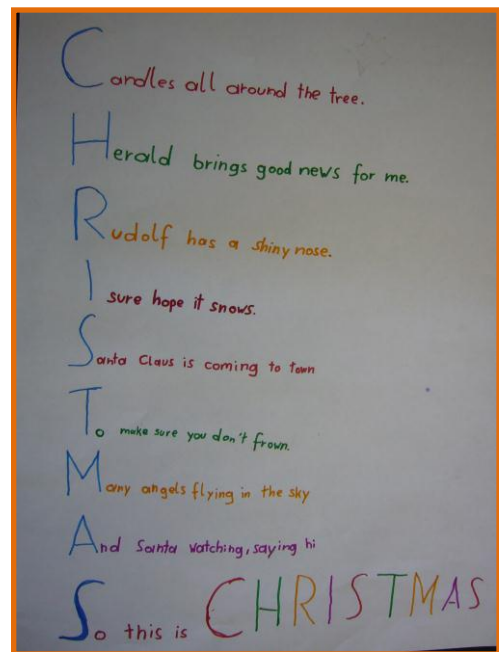
Typical ingredients of a recipe poem:

Now follow the recipe format to write your own poem: You might write a recipe for spring, summer, autumn or winter or any other recipe you want to try.

Acrostic Poems



Halloween is dark and spooky
And all the ghosts and goblins are out at night
Lots of terrifying animals come out of hide-aways
Lots of frightening dreams
Oh! Halloween is spooky
What a frightening time
Every spooky animal you could imagine
Even the pumpkins are lit
No little girl or boy should go out on Halloween.
By Charlotte.



Typical ingredients and rules of acrostic poems:

Now try your hand at writing your own acrostic poem. You might want to write about yourself, using your name as a title. Other good topics are special holidays or seasons, places etc.

Haiku

Examples:

I lie belly-up
In the sunshine, happier than
You ever will be.

Dopey McWilliams



Baby chicks at rest.
Eggs pilfered from Mother's nest
And it's so yummy!

Dopey McWilliams



The Cliffs of Moher



The majestic cliffs
The water beneath shining
And glittering bright

The waves roaring loud
Down there, at the cliff's firm foot
Never will move

I look down the cliff
I cannot make out its foot
It seems so endless

Clemens M. Schreiner

peanut butter and jelly
white bread triangles
and their intestines clutch to
my small childhood heart.



thelma dawn esprit

Typical ingredients and rules of a haiku:

Form:

Content:

Haikus usually paint pictures. They are like verbal snapshots and concentrate on a single moment or picture. They don't tell stories.

Now write your own haiku. Choose a powerful picture or photograph to give you ideas.

Concrete Poems

Examples:

Bird # 3

Poe's
 raven told
 him nothing nevermore
 and Vincent's circling
 crows were a threat to destroy
 sunlight. Now I saw a bird, black with a yellow
 beak, orange rubber legs
 pecking to kill the
 lawn, storm bird
 hates with claw,
 evil beak,
 s
 u
 n
 and eye

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**concrete poems: play with letters form
 space words fonts ideas shapes image.
 concrete block forms filled with water
 words images poems
 words images poems
 words images poems
 words images poems
 gravel sand cement gravel sand gravel.
 concrete poems: play with letters form
 space words fonts ideas shapes image.**

A CONCRETE POEM by Shannon Lea K.
 Text of the poem is typed below.
 A gentle breeze blew all morning long. It picked up leaves (written on a leaf) along the way. It blew past streets and picked up cans (written on a can) and trash (written on a piece of trash). It blew through the dump and dropped all its belongings. It blew past me on my way to school and felt cool and refreshing against my skin. It blew out to the river and followed it out to sea where it got weak and died.

<http://www.schools.pinellas.k12.fl.us/educators/tec/pravda3/concrete.html>

Typical ingredients and rule for concrete poems:

Now try writing your own concrete poem.

Limericks

The limerick is a humorous poem with a very special form and rhythm. The form was popularized by Edward Lear in the 19th century. The name of the verse form is derived from county in SW Ireland, in the province of Munster. Its capital city is Limerick situated on the River Shannon.

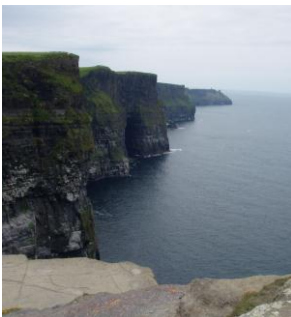
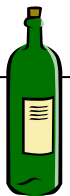
Read the following limericks and choose your favorite one. Learn it by heart.

There was a young lady of Riga
Who smiled as she rode on a tiger;
They returned from the ride
With the lady inside,
And the smile on the face of the tiger.



Anonymous

There once was a from Hyde,
Who ate a sour apple and died,
While her lover lamented,
The apple fermented,
and made cider inside her inside.



There was once a boy whose name was Noah
He went to the high cliffs of Moher
He wanted to see more
But he fell off the shore
And that's the sad story of Noah

Viki Muster, 14

There once was a child named Lou
who never liked eating his stew
his mother got mad
she said he was bad
'cause he said that it tasted like poo



Then figure out the typical form of a limerick:

1st words:

Number of lines and rhyme (use letters to illustrate that)

Rhythm (illustrate the rhythm by stress marks: - /-)

Write your own limerick.