

wordsworth

GRASMERE

Poetry Prompts Toolkit: Primary Schools

Alliteration

Read Carol Ann Duffy's poem 'F for Fox' ([LINK](#)). Look at how Duffy uses alliteration to give the poem rhythm. Try reading the poem aloud.

Choose an animal. Write down as many words as you can that start with the same letter as your animal (nouns, verbs, adjectives, place names, slang words). Write a poem about your animal's adventures, using as many of the words on your list as possible. (Note: the animal can behave as realistically or as supernaturally as you like. If you want a roller-skating rabbit from Rome, then go for it!)

List poems...

How would you describe yourself? Write a list of around 10 adjectives, then create similes using these adjectives (e.g. 'I am as clever as a dictionary', or 'I am as brave as a lion'). Try adding more detail to your similes, to make them more interesting (e.g. 'I am as brave as a hungry lion fighting off a pack of hyenas').

Try to compare yourself to at least one animal, and at least one inanimate object. (You can include your own challenges here, such as 'a building', 'something you'd find on a beach', or 'an item of clothing'.) Arrange these similes in a list, starting each new line with 'I am...'.

...and riddles

A variation on the list poem exercise above, is to write a list poem about an object. As well as similes, use other types of description. Write about it in the first person, and try to imagine yourself into the object's skin. What does it look like / feel like / smell like / sound like? What is it used for? Where is it kept? How was it made? If it could feel and think, what might the object want?

End with 'what am I?' and try to guess each other's objects.

Confessional Poetry

Read Simon Armitage's 'I Kicked a Mushroom' ([LINK](#)). How does he describe the mushroom? Look at all the different ways he describes the mushroom itself, and then what happened when he kicked it.

Write about a time you did something you felt bad about. It can be as serious or as funny as you like (maybe you broke someone's favourite mug, or did a really smelly fart), but you'll find it easier to write about something physical, rather than something you thought or said. Describe what you did in as much detail as possible. Use your senses (sight, touch, sound, smell – maybe even taste, if it isn't too weird in the poem). See if you can include a simile (like Armitage's 'wide as a manhole cover or bin lid' or 'like a rope on a beach').

Think about how Armitage ends his poem. How did you leave the situation?
