

Independent Living Program Activity Card

Category: Education

Activity: Poetry Writing

Description: The objective of this assignment is to introduce you to writing poetry. Over the years, poets have created many different types of poetry styles. You can write your poem about anything you want, and in any style that you want. Be creative!

You may earn up to \$5.00 ILP dollars for this assignment based on the amount of effort put into your poem(s). Include a copy of your poem(s).

Total Dollars Earned:

<p>\$</p>
<p>(ILP Use Only)</p>

<p>Notes:</p>

Date: _____

<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>Youth Signature</p>	<p>Date of Birth</p>
<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>Print Name (Youth)</p>	<p>Group Home (If Applicable)</p>

<p>Receipt</p>
<p>(ILP Use Only)</p>

What is Poetry?

Writing a poem is all about observing the world within or around you. Writing poetry can seem daunting, especially if you do not feel you are naturally creative or bursting with poetic ideas... But with the right inspiration and approach, you can write a poem that you can be proud to share with others in class or with your friends, or keep to yourself.

A poem can be about anything, from love to loss to the rusty gate at the old farm. A poem can also be in many forms, from a Haiku, to a Sonnet, to a few Verses in a Hip Hop Song.

See below for a few a few examples, then create some in these styles or come up with your own!

Limerick

A limerick has five lines that rhyme AABBA. The first, second, and fifth lines should have eight or nine syllables, while the third and fourth lines should have five or six. A limerick also has a specific rhythm, or "meter," that is created when syllables are stressed in different ways.

SAMPLE

A woman who once heard a mouse
ran screaming all throughout her house.
She sent in the cat
to dispose of the rat
to find it was only her spouse

Cinquains

Cinquains have five lines that usually follow a specific structure:

- First line: One word (noun) that will be the subject of the poem; two syllables
- Second line: Two words (adjectives) that describe the subject; four syllables
- Third line: Three words (-ing verbs) that have something to do with the subject; six syllables
- Fourth line: Four words (a phrase) that relate to the subject; eight syllables
- Fifth line: One word (noun) that is similar to the subject; two syllables

SAMPLE

Water
Restless, rugged
Flowing, crashing, smashing
Creator of valleys and crests
Power

OTHER EXAMPLES

Won't you Celebrate With Me

Lucille Clifton, 1936 – 2010

won't you celebrate with me
what i have shaped into
a kind of life? i had no model.
born in babylon
both nonwhite and woman
what did i see to be except myself?
i made it up
here on this bridge between
starshine and clay,
my one hand holding tight
my other hand; come celebrate
with me that everyday
something has tried to kill me
and has failed.

The Cities Inside Us

Alberto Ríos, 1952

We live in secret cities
And we travel unmapped roads.
We speak words between us that we
recognize
But which cannot be looked up.
They are our words.
They come from very far inside our
mouths.
You and I, we are the secret citizens of
the city
Inside us, and inside us
There go all the cars we have driven
And seen, there are all the people
We know and have known, there
Are all the places that are
But which used to be as well. This is
where
They went. They did not disappear.
We each take a piece
Through the eye and through the ear.
It's loud inside us, in there, and when we
speak
In the outside world
We have to hope that some of that sound
Does not come out, that an arm
Not reach out
In place of the tongue.