

# What Is Poetry?

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In simple terms, poetry is a form of literature or art which tries to stir readers' emotions and imagination. It is brilliant for developing creativity and expression in children. You can watch this **BBC video** for more information and to explore the fun nature of poetry.

Poets use a careful choice of words and language combined with sound and rhythm to create imaginative and emotional poetry. This takes time for a child to learn, so reading poetry is an important step when trying to write poetry. When helping your child at home, try reading a poem and then using it as a 'model' for your child to add a verse. This prepares children for more independent writing of poetry as they grow.

## What Types of Poetry Will My Child Study in Year 3?

Many poems (like nursery rhymes) are humorous, while others (like sonnets) are often more heartfelt. Children will study a range of poems that have a form (layout and pattern) that they can use to write their own poetry in a similar style. In this guide, we explore acrostic poems and kennings poems, both of which are very different. Your child will explore and read different types of poetry in school, often with reading aloud. Sharing reading poetry aloud at home is great for confidence-building, as there are fewer people to watch compared to the school classroom.

### Birthday Card Acrostic Poem

Use a piece of coloured A4 card folded in half as a homemade card for someone's special day. Either on the front or inside, write the recipient's name vertically in capital letters down one side of the page. Then you can discuss the characteristics and likes of the person and use the letters of their name to describe them. For example, the name 'EMILY' written down one side of the page might become 'Energetic, Magic, Intelligent, Lovely, You'. This sends a very personal message that the recipient is sure to treasure. It's best to produce a rough draft first and then to write and decorate a neat version afterwards.

### Poetry Night

Why not involve the whole family in exploring poetry? Help your child to choose a poem online or in a poetry book that each member of the family can read or learn. Can they find something that includes each person's likes or personality? Talk together about why you've chosen each poem and enjoy reading them together.

### Hearing Poets Recite

Search online for video or audio clips of poets reading their own poems aloud. What style of poetry does each poet use? Do they challenge us, make us laugh or make us cry? Remember to pre-search when using videos online so that children are not exposed to inappropriate content.

### Paper Chain Poems

As your child reads and creates more poetry, you may wish to add some practical, hands-on activities as well to keep them engaged. Why not create some simple paper chains using lines of poetry written on strips of coloured paper? Staple, glue or tape the strips into loops chained together. You could write out a well-known or favourite poem into a paper chain, or else write your own.



## Step 1

### Acrostic Poems

Acrostic poems are an excellent starting point for poetry because of their simplicity. An acrostic poem is structured by the first letter of each consecutive line spelling a word, normally related to the theme of the poem. This PowerPoint will take you and your child through how an acrostic is written. Choose a theme word that your child is really interested in or choose a person or object to base your poem on.

### Write a Kenning

A kenning is a two-word phrase describing an object, often using a metaphor. For example, a spider might be described in a kenning as an 'insect-spinner' or a 'door-crawler'. Kennings can be put together to build kenning poems and can be great fun for your child to write alone or as part of a family group. This kennings pack includes a PowerPoint and some activity sheets; you can work through the slides with your child and explore the given examples of kenning poetry before having a go yourselves. Don't forget to make sure your child puts a hyphen between the two words that make up each kenning.



## Step 2



## Step 3

### Poems to Recite and Share

Sharing poetry and reading aloud can be a great activity night for a family. Our Twinkl classic poetry pack is a great starting point for deciding which poems to choose. This classic selection contains modern and traditional poetry suitable for children and adults. If you have a favourite poet or poem, then add it to your list. Remember that you can download these poems and display them on a screen if you don't want to print them out.

### Understanding Poetry With The Owl and the Pussycat

Children are taught to understand poetry (known most often in schools as comprehension). This includes understanding not just the meaning of the poem, but also why the writer chose the style and poetic devices (features of poetry). You can use this poetry assessment pack to enjoy and discuss the fabulous poem 'The Owl and the Pussycat'. The other materials in this pack could be used to assess your child's understanding of poetry or to just give you some insight into the level of understanding your child is expected to develop by the end of year 3.



## Step 4