





WIZARDING  
WORLD



HARRY POTTER









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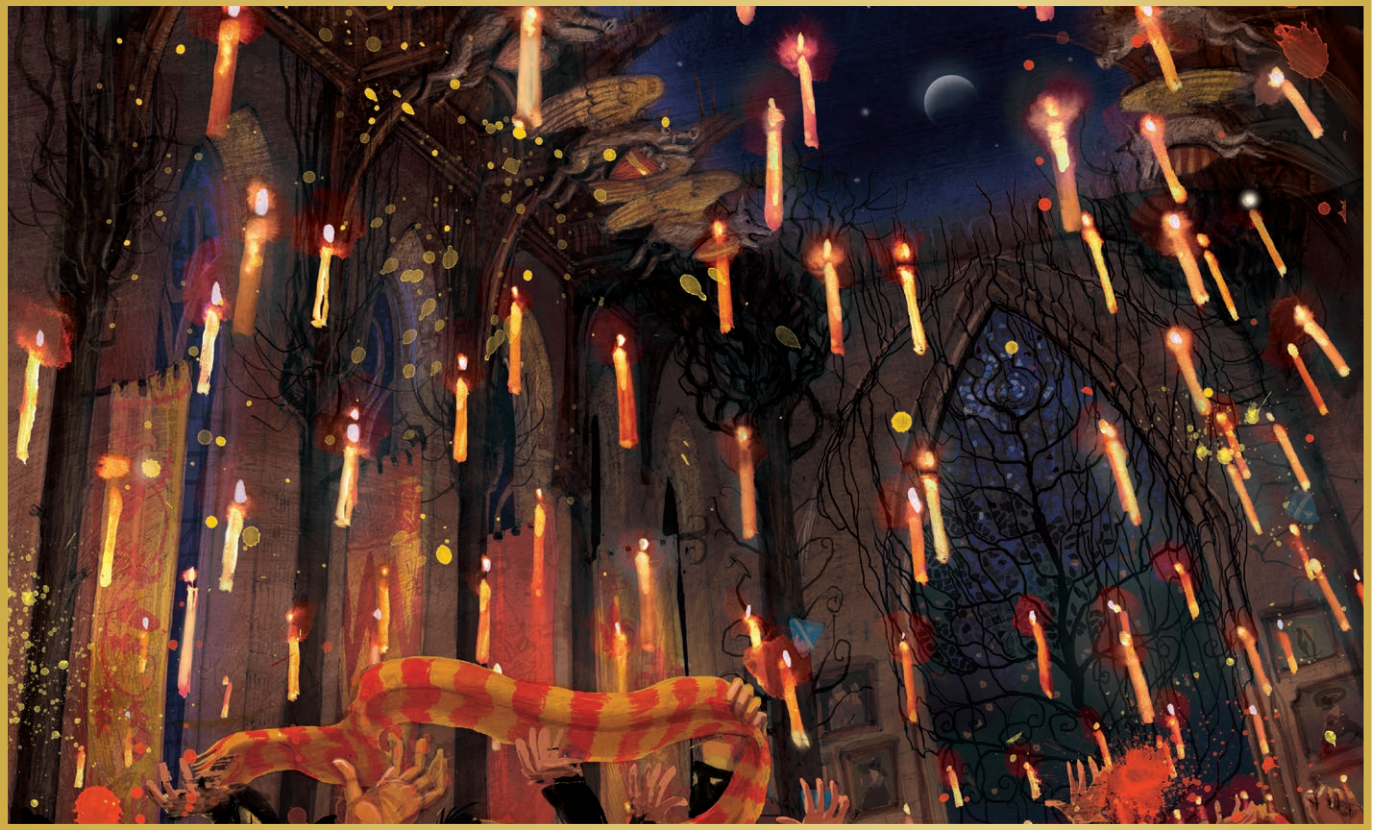
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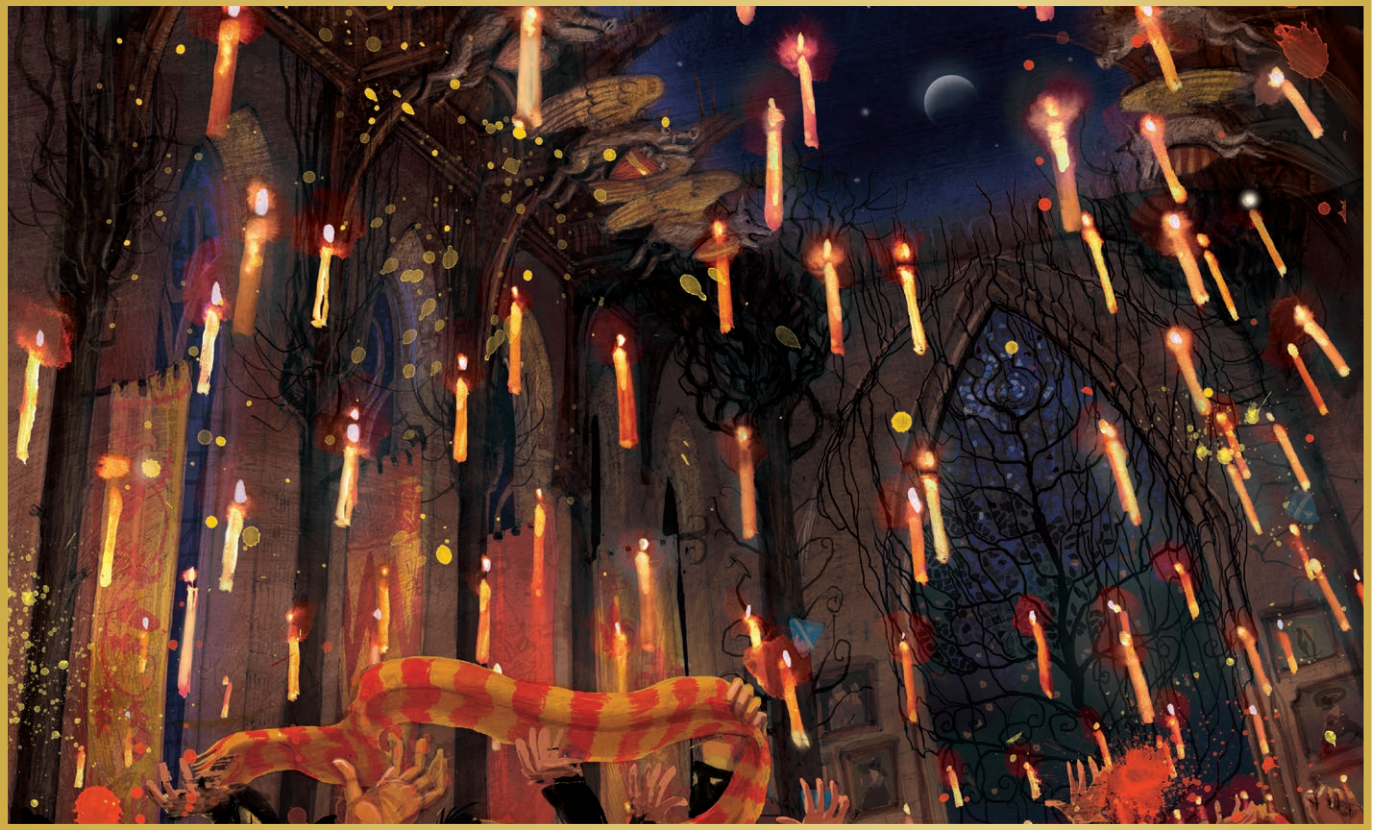












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# Writing Magical Spellbinding Poetry



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HARRY POTTER

# Magical Spellbinding Poetry



The wizarding world of Harry Potter is full of intriguing characters who embark on a series of extraordinary adventures in magical lands and locations.

We can use some of these exciting ideas as inspiration for writing our own magical spellbinding poetry.



Which type of poem will you choose to write?

riddle poem →

kenning poem →

poison poem →

cinquain poem →

haiku poem →

acrostic poem →



## Activity 1

# Riddle Poems

Riddles can be poems that act like puzzles; they give clues that lead to an answer or solution.

In the book 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire', Harry must solve a riddle which tells him which creature is guarding the Triwizard Cup:

**First think of the person who lives in disguise,  
Who deals in secrets and tells naught but lies.**

The answer to this part of the riddle is **'spy'**.

**Next, tell me what's always the last thing to mend,  
The middle of middle and end of the end?**

The answer to this part of the riddle is **'d'**.

**And finally give me the sound often heard  
During the search for a hard-to-find word.**

The answer to this part of the riddle is **'er'**.

**Now string them together and answer me this,  
Which creature would you be unwilling to kiss?**

The answer to the riddle:  
spy + d + er = **spider**

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Chapter 31 The Third Task

## Activity 1

# Writing a Riddle Poem

Let's try writing our own riddle poem.

Start by thinking of the answer to a riddle. This could be anything you like, such as: an object, character or location. You may choose to use the wizarding world of Harry Potter as your inspiration.

Then, write a riddle poem with clues to your answer.

### Try to include:

- rhyming couplets
- rhythm
- powerful vocabulary



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## Activity 2

# Kenning Poems

kennings are phrases of two words that replace a noun in poetry. These words are joined using a hyphen.

kennings are often used in poetry to describe something without saying what it is. They can sometimes be used as riddles, where the reader has to guess the subject of the poem.

Here is an example of a kenning poem. Can you guess who or what it is referring to?

hut-dwelling

Potter-protector

key-keeper

creature-loving

motorcycle-riding



**Hagrid**

## Activity 2

# Writing a Kenning Poem

To write a kenning poem, begin by thinking of the subject of your poem. This could be an object, creature or character. You may choose to use the wizarding world of Harry Potter as your inspiration.

Then, think about what your subject is or does. For example, in the Harry Potter stories, dragons breathe fire. So, we could make this fact into a hyphenated word. This can either be:

noun + verb phrase, e.g. fire-breathing  
or

noun + noun phrase, e.g. fire-breather

You could even include a mixture of both.  
It's up to you!



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## Activity 3

# Potions Poems

In the Harry Potter stories, the characters concoct a variety of magical potions, all of which have different properties.

Potions are liquids that usually have magical or healing powers. They include a special mixture of ingredients, many of which are bizarre or hard to find. The character Professor Snape refers to potion-making as a “subtle science” and an “exact art”.



## Activity 3

# Potions Poems

Here are some of the potions that feature in the Harry Potter stories:

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Polyjuice Potion: transforms the drinker into the physical form of another person

Draught of Peace: relieves anxiety and agitation

Forgetfulness Potion: used to make the drinker forget things

Felix Felicis: gives the drinker good luck

Mandrake Draught: cures people who have been Petrified

Skele-Gro: used to regrow broken bones





## Activity 3

# Writing a Potions Poem

the first glistening droplet of morning dew

three fallen leaves from a sycamore tree

---

To write a potions poem, begin by thinking about your ingredients – the more bizarre and specific, the better!

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a fragment of leather from a wizard's shoe

five melted flakes of enchanted snow

a serpent's scale that shines bright blue



## Activity 3

# Writing a Potions Poem

Then, put your ingredients together to form your poem.

### Try to include:

- powerful adjectives
- rhyming couplets
- rhythm
- alliteration



### Here is an example:

Into my potion, I will drop...  
the first glistening droplet of morning dew,  
a fragment of leather from a wizard's shoe,  
three fallen leaves from a sycamore tree,  
a lock of hair from a Quidditch referee,  
five melted flakes of enchanted snow,  
a feather from the nest of a cawing crow.

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## Activity 4

# Cinquain Poems

Cinquains are poems that contain five lines. They often have the following number of words on each line: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1.

Here is an example of a cinquain poem:



broomstick  
enchanted, sturdy  
whooshing, soaring, ascending  
take to the skies  
transporter

## Activity 4

# Writing a Cinquain Poem

Cinquain poems can be about any subject. They follow this structure:

The first line is always the subject of the poem.

The second line should include two adjectives to describe the subject.

The third line should include three verbs linked to the subject (usually ending with 'ing').

The fourth line should capture emotions or feelings relating to the subject.

This word should be a near-synonym: a word closely-linked to the subject of the poem.

broomstick  
enchanted, sturdy  
whooshing, soaring, ascending  
take to the skies  
transporter



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## Activity 5

# Haikus

Haikus are a form of traditional Japanese poetry. Haikus contain three lines, which follow the structure: five syllables; seven syllables; five syllables.

Because there aren't many words within a haiku poem, it's important to make every word count by using powerful, descriptive language.

Below is an example of a haiku. Can you guess the subject of the poem?

Majestic castle.  
Stunning grounds and scenery.  
Wizardry abounds.

**That's right! The poem is about Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.**



## Activity 5

# Writing a Haiku

To write a haiku, begin by gathering a list of vocabulary related to your chosen topic. For example:

crowded

**Diagon Alley**

chattering

vendors

bustling

wizards

archaic

cobbled

traders

witches

magical

shops

cramped

wares

enchanted

intriguing

owls

robes

shops

Galleons

exciting

mysterious





## Activity 5

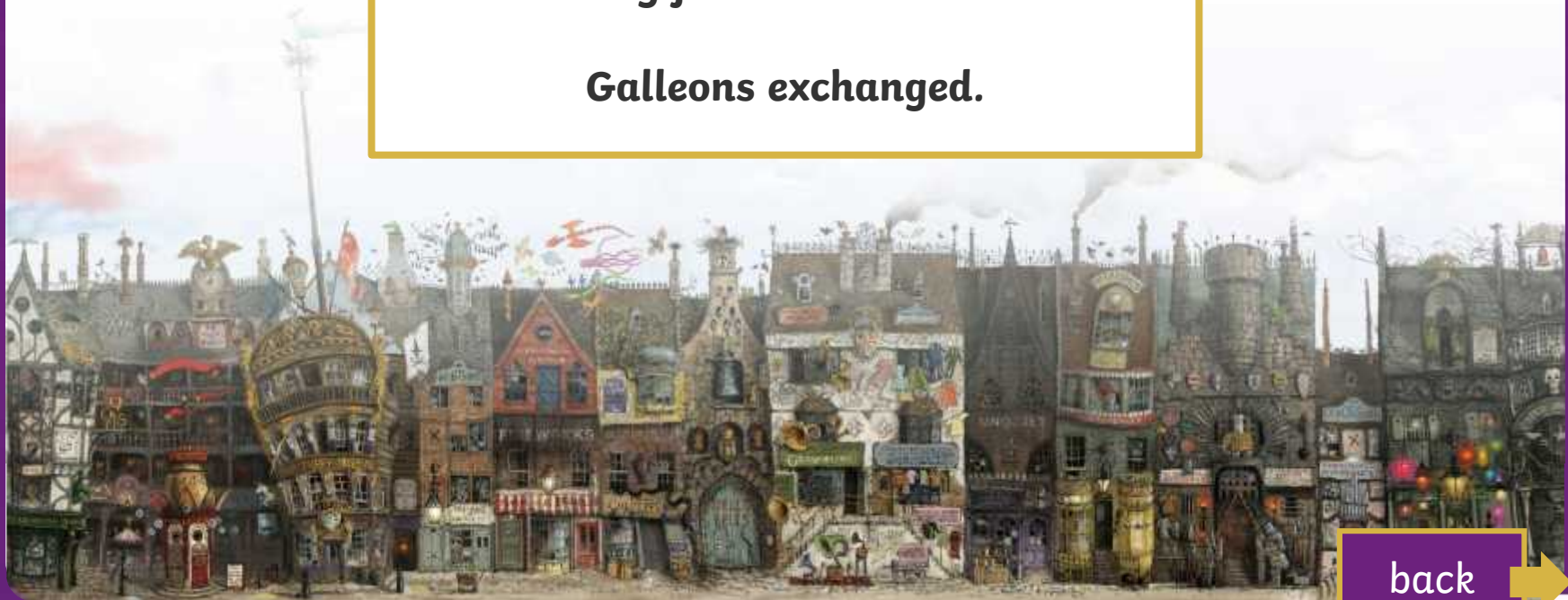
# Writing a Haiku

Then, use some of these words to make three sentences to fit the Haiku structure: five syllables; seven syllables; five syllables.

**Bustling and crowded.**

**Wizarding folk trade their wares.**

**Galleons exchanged.**



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## Activity 6

# Acrostic Poems

In an acrostic poem, the first letter of each line spells a word. Here is an example of an acrostic poem:

**P**repare your ingredients at the double

**O**ver the flame, let your cauldron bubble

**T**ry and remember what Professor Snape taught

**I**nclude each of the magical elements you sought

**O**f utmost importance is careful brewing

**N**o wizard should allow for oversteering!



## Activity 6

# Writing an Acrostic Poem

To write an acrostic poem, begin by thinking of a word that will form the subject of your poem. Remember, the letters in the word will determine the number of lines so you may not want to choose a word that's very short.

Once you have chosen your word, write each letter on a separate line. Then, think of carefully-worded lines for your poem that relate to your chosen subject.

### Try to include:

- powerful adjectives
- rhyming couplets
- rhythm
- alliteration



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