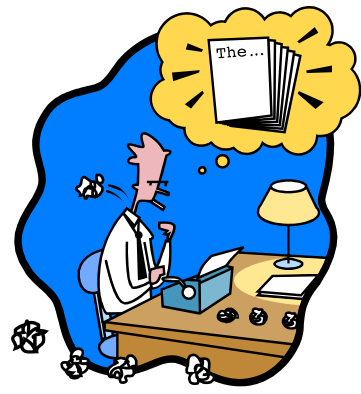


Poetry Ideas



Limericks

In limericks, the first, second, and fifth lines all end with words that rhyme with each other. These lines are each about 8 or 9 syllables long. The third and fourth lines are shorter and rhyme only with each other. They are each about 6 or 7 syllables long.

Here is an example of a limerick:

A starving lad from Timbuktu
Couldn't think of much to do.
He grabbed a fat gator
And he cooked it and then ate her.
Now the young lad is no longer blue.

Have students use their AlphaSmarts to key in their own limericks. Here are some possible beginning lines. One fun activity is to give the same beginning line to the entire class and compare their limericks! Students can vote on their favorites and print and display those on a bulletin board.

- A dog who did nothing but dig
- A musician who lost all his notes
- A chocolate milk cow named Daisy
- The librarian we all called Sue
- There was an old cat in a tub
- A young pupil who knew all her math
- A dragon who developed strep throat
- There once was a young boy named Frank
- A scientist going quite mad
- An old chef without any dough

Alphabet Poetry

Here is an activity as easy as ABC. An alphabet poem features a sequence of letters and words that begin with those letters. This type of poem is often silly. For example, if your sequence was E, F, G, and H you might write:

Elephants

Fly

Giant

Helicopters

One fun way to use this with the AlphaSmart is in a Poetry Relay. Have student number one type the first word, pass it to student number two who adds the next word, then to student three and so on. For older students, you might see how long they can make the sequence go before they run out of words that will make sense.

Terse Verse

What is a short poem called? A terse verse! Explain to students that they will be writing poems containing only two words. This may seem easy, but it's finding the right word combination that's the real trick. After sharing the examples below, have each student key in as many terse verses as he can in File 1. Pass the AlphaSmart to another student and see how many the second student can answer. Example:

In File 1, type these clues:

Fifty-Pound Feline

Toy Reptile

Feverish Baby

Pass the AlphaSmart and see if student number two can answer:

Fat Cat

Fake Snake

Hot Tot

Picture-Perfect Sensory Poetry

A picture can say a thousand words, but poetry can capture a picture in just a few! This activity will encourage students to use their five senses as they write a poem. Have each student bring a picture that shows an interesting image. Have them place that image on their desk with their AlphaSmart beside it. Put a sticky label above File 1 that says taste, file 2 that says smell, file 3 that says feel, file 4 that says sound, and file 5 that says see. Then have students move one desk up (or one desk over, depending on your room arrangement) and have that student write something about the picture that uses that sense. For example, if it is a picture of people on a beach, a student might write "The smell of suntan lotion and salt water filled the air." After five rotations, have each student return to her seat and copy all five sentences into one file and rewrite them using those senses in poetic form. Display each poem and its matching picture.

(Ideas adapted from Mailbag, 97-98 Yearbook, pgs. 89-94)