



Poetry Writing Imperatives

Write poems to...

ask questions, open up a topic, stimulate, explore, reflect, consolidate, celebrate, collaborate, think aloud, illustrate, tell a secret (hide a secret), preserve ideas, make plans, inventories, share stories, remember, get playful, riddle and puzzle, bell-jar something beautiful, wonder, praise, grumble, grouse, glorify, remember numbers, make word-music, sculpt sentences, capture moments, hold fast feelings, map memories, frame your environment, pump up language muscles, make yourself heard, say goodbye, search for answers

Write them like this...

one-word poems, haiku, riddles, rhyming couplets, raps, blank verse, list poems, found poems, cut and paste poems, nursery rhymes, nonsense poems, dialect poems, tongue-twisters, origami poems, shape and concrete poems, diamanté, acrostics, biographic poems, instamatic poems, monologue, dialogue, epitaphs, odes to favourite things, limericks, mesostics, sonnets, syllable poems, kennings, quatrains, recipe poems, instruction poems, letter-poems, blessings and prayers, onomatopoeic poems, personification, memory poems, question & answer poems ...

Share them this way...

painted on 'poetry walls', playgrounds, benches, banners, windows or planters. Pasted on 'poetry chairs' or tables – or any object that stays still! Folded into origami. On strips to weave a basket. Sent on postcards, in newsletters, in class round-robins. Laminated on placemats, and bookmarks. Superimposed on photos of people, places, nature and numbers. On bricks, beach boulders, pebbles, slate, leaves, driftwood. On the contour lines of old maps. On memory-maps. Hidden in clam shells and nut-shells. Squeezed into balloons to set free. On luggage-labels hung on 'poetrees'; on plant-labels, on school gates, railings, banisters, doorhandles, handbags, schoolbags, suitcases. On badges, name-labels, faces, hands or feet. On clothes on a washing line. On rows of bottles or the toes of old shoes. On underwater stones. On till-roll strips or tagliatelle. On chocolate with icing pens, baked into cakes, on threaded dry butterbeans ...

Where will you put yours? We'd love to see. Send your poem project ideas, poems and photos to: education@spl.org.uk

