

What is Poetry?

Poetry is a collection of words that express an emotion or idea, sometimes with a specific meaning, sound, or rhythm.



This week you will be, learning about, reading and writing poetry.

You will look at poems about wintery weather and write one of your own.





WHAT IS A POEM? FACT SHEET



- A poem is a piece of writing that uses imaginative words to share ideas, emotions or a story with the reader.
- A person who writes a poem is called a poet.
- Many poems have words or phrases that sound good together when they are read aloud.
- Most poems for children rhyme or they have rhythm (just like music) or repetition. But a poem doesn't have to rhyme!
- People have been writing poetry for over 4,000 years, but they were probably making up verses to recite in front of audiences long before that.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF POEMS



There are many different types of poetry. Here are some you might know...

- **NARRATIVE POEMS** tell a story. You could say that Julia Donaldson's books, such as *The Gruffalo*, are narrative poems. In **Storytime Issue 1**, we featured *The Owl and the Pussy-cat* by Edward Lear, which is a narrative poem.
- In **SHAPE POEMS** (or **CONCRETE POEMS**) the words are arranged to look like the thing you're writing about. You could write a poem about a snake in a long wiggly line or a poem about rain inside a raindrop shape. For example:

RAINDROP
RACING DOWN
THE WINDOWPANE
RAINDROP CAN'T STOP
IT'S IN THE FAST LANE - WHEEL

- **NONSENSE POEMS** feature made-up words, characters or places, and are funny. In **Storytime Issue 4**, we featured the nonsense poem *On the Ning Nang Nong* by Spike Milligan. Other well-known nonsense poets are Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear.

- In **ACROSTIC POEMS** when you look at the first letters of each line of the poem, they spell out a word vertically. This word links to the subject of the poem. It doesn't have to be the first letter that stands out – it could be the last letter of each line, or a letter in the middle. Also, acrostic poems don't have to rhyme. Here's an example:

Creamy and sweet
A big birthday treat
Kids love to tuck in
Eat it with a grin!

- **FOUND POEMS** use words you've found somewhere. Turn to random pages in a dictionary and choose words, take the first sentence from your favourite book, or rip out random headlines from a magazine or newspaper, then use the words you've found to make a poem. It's a bit like a collage with words!
- **HAIKUS** are Japanese poems. They don't have to rhyme, but some do. Haikus always have three lines. Line 1 has 5 syllables; line 2 has 7 syllables; and line 3 has 5 syllables:

In school I can learn
to climb and scale and conquer
mountains of knowledge

- **LIMERICKS** are short, funny poems with five lines. They always start with the words "There was a..." and end in a silly way. Lines 1, 2 and 5 rhyme with each other, and lines 3 and 4 rhyme too. Edward Lear's limerick *There Was an Old Man with a Beard* was in **Storytime Issue 12**:

There was an old man with a beard,
Who said, "It is just as I feared,
Two owls and a hen,
A lark and a wren

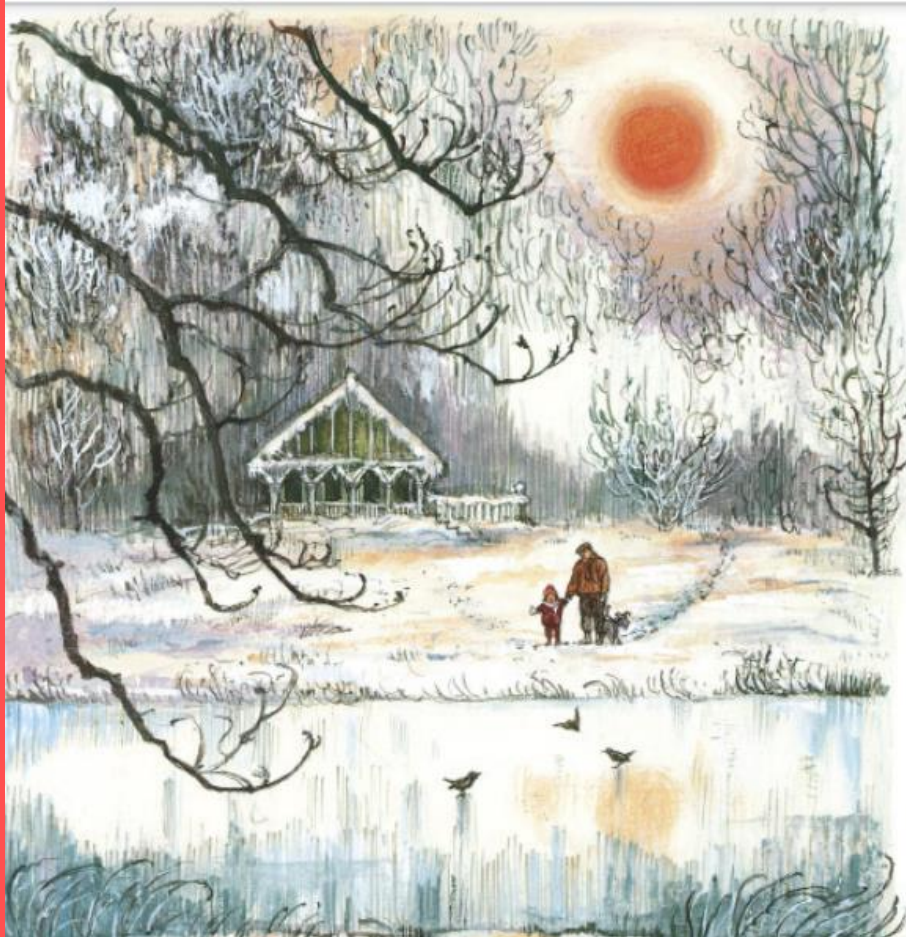
**WORD
WISE!**

Syllables are the sounds that make up words. 'Cat' has one syllable, 'cattle' has two syllables (cat-tle) and 'catalogue' has three syllables (cat-a-logue).

Click on the link below to listen to lots of different poems. Find one you like.

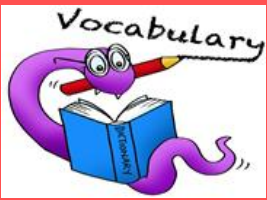


Can you learn this poem by heart and say it aloud? Post it on your see saw journal.



Cold

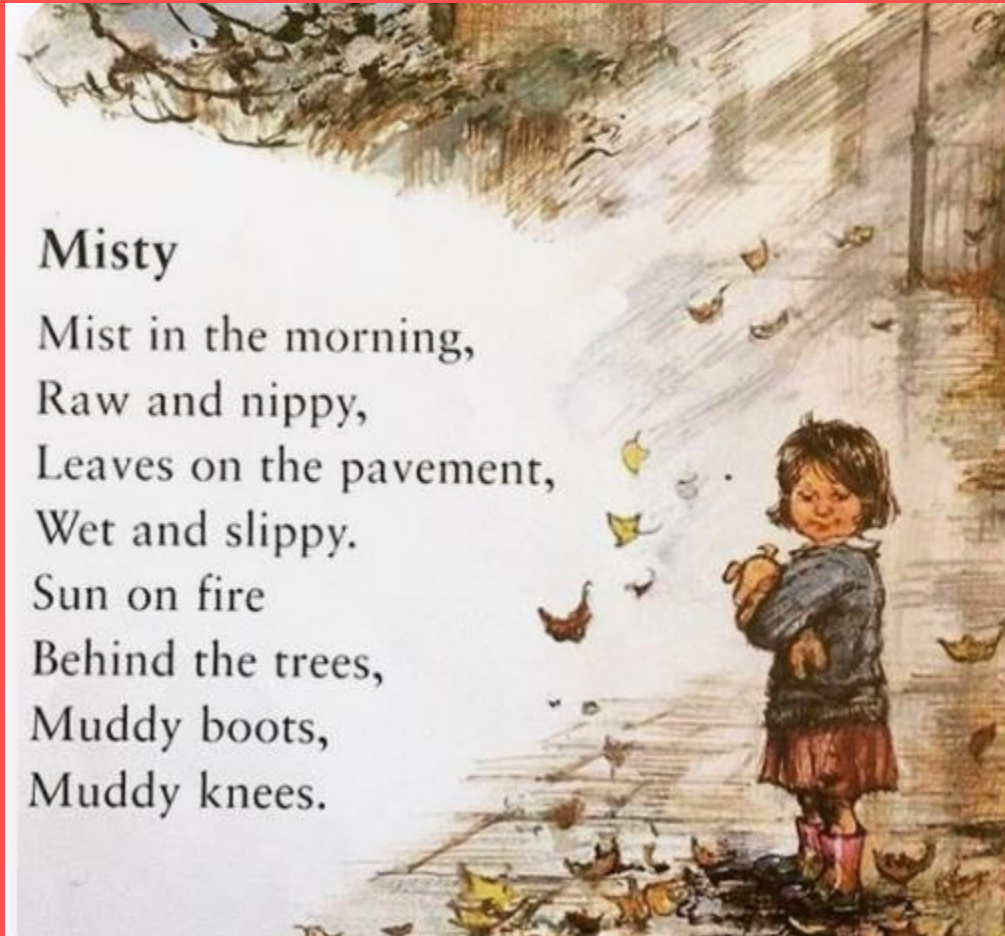
Cold fingers,
Cold toes,
Pink sky,
Pink nose.
Hard ground,
Bare trees,
Branches crack,
Puddles freeze.
Frost white,
Sun red,
Warm room,
Warm bed.



Can you find some
rhyming words in
this poem?

Misty

Mist in the morning,
Raw and nippy,
Leaves on the pavement,
Wet and slippery.
Sun on fire
Behind the trees,
Muddy boots,
Muddy knees.



Which are
your
favourite
words or
phrases in
this poem?



THE SNOWMAN

Roger McGough

Mother, while you were at the shops
and I was snoozing in my chair
I heard a tap at the window
saw a snowman standing there
He looked so cold and miserable
I almost could have cried
so I put the kettle on
and invited him inside

I made him a cup of cocoa
to warm the cockles of his nose
then he snuggled in front of the fire
for a cosy little doze

He lay there warm and smiling
softly counting sheep
I eavesdropped for a little while
then I too fell asleep

Seems he awoke and tiptoed out
exactly when I'm not too sure
it's a wonder you didn't see him
as you came in through the door
(oh, and by the way,
the kitten's made a puddle on the floor)



First Snow in the Street

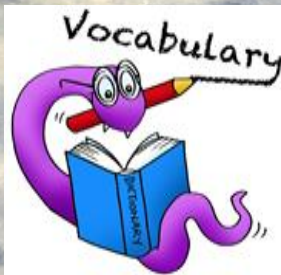
I did not sleep last night.
The falling snow was beautiful and white.
I dressed, sneaked down the stairs
And opened wide the door.
I had not seen such snow before.

Our grubby little street had gone;
The world was brand-new and everywhere
There was a pureness in the air.
I felt such peace. Watching every flake
I felt more and more awake.

I thought I'd learned all there was to know
About the trillion million different kinds
Of swirling frosty falling flakes of snow.
But that was not so.
I did not know how vividly it lit
The world with such a peaceful glow.

Upstairs my parents slept.
I could not drag myself away from that sight
To call them down and have them share
The mute miracle of the snow.
It seemed to fall for me alone.
How beautiful the grubby little street had grown!

BRIAN PATTEN



What do these words
mean? sneaked, grubby,
pureness, vividly, miracle.

Sledging



Look at us

As we go

Sledging on the bright white snow.

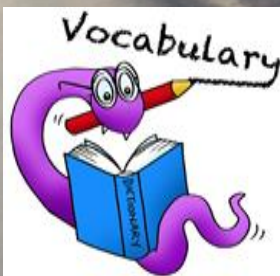
Faces beaming

Long hair streaming

Passing those who are too slow.

WENDY ELIZABETH JOHNSON

What adjectives does the poet use to describe the snow? .





Now have a go at writing your own poem about the wintery weather. Use your experiences from this weekend in the snowy weather. What do you feel, hear, see? Can you use some adjectives to describe? Practice reading it aloud and record it to your seesaw journal.

FRIDAY

Copy this poem in your best handwriting and draw a picture to go with it.

