

Knowledge Organiser - English

Classic Poetry for Performance

What is Poetry?

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

Performance Poetry Checklist:

- Volume
- Pace
- Pauses
- Expression
- Different voices
- Background sounds
- Body positions



Rhyme
Rhyming words occur very often in poems, sometimes in patterns.

Rhythm
The flow of a poem, often affected by the punctuation and shape of a poem.

Tone and Pace
Have a big impact on rhythm and affected by punctuation.

Onomatopoeia
When a word imitates the sound it makes (e.g. BANG, SPLASH)

Similes
Compares two different things, using the words "like" or "as".

Metaphors
Identifies something as being the same as something else.

Repetition
When words and phrases are repeated multiple times.

Alliterations
More than one word beginning with the same letter (close together in text).

POETIC TECHNIQUES

The Little Turtle

There was a little turtle.
He lived in a box,
He swam in a puddle.
He climbed on the rocks.

He snapped at a mosquito.
He snapped at a flea.
He snapped at a minnow.
And he snapped at me.

He caught the mosquito.
He caught the flea.
He caught the minnow.
But he didn't catch me.

The first aspect immediately noticeable about a classical poem is its clarity of expression. In classical poetry the underlying truth the poet is conveying is never lost.

Mystery

My Mini Anchor Chart

Mystery

What is Mystery?
A mystery is a story in which the character is focused on solving a crime or unusual problem.

Characteristics of Mystery

- Special characters such as detectives, sleuths, victims, suspects, or witnesses.
- Clues that will help the mystery get solved.
- The author includes foreshadowing to help the reader solve the mystery.

Why do authors write mystery?
Authors write mysteries to entertain their readers. The goal of writing the mystery is to keep the reader engaged and guessing the solution up until the very end of the story.

Examples of Mystery

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
By E.L. Konigsburg
The Westing Game
By Ellen Raskin
Chasing Vermeer
By Blue Balliett
The Boxcar Children
By Gertrude Warner

Elements of a story

Character - the person that carries the action.

Plot - how the story happens. Action, series of events.

Setting - sets the scene. Where? When?

Conflict - struggle in the plot, something to overcome.

Theme - the main idea, the central belief.

What a good one looks like (WAGOLL):

The moon was a strange kind of brightness, an unnatural light hung in the clouds. The night was grey. The large derelict house loomed over her. Sarah felt threatened. At that moment she realised that she was alone. For the first time ever, no friends, no family were there to tell her it was going to be ok. There she stood, staring into the hole in the ground that just opened up before her like a sinkhole to hell. All was quiet...all was still. Sarah took baby steps closer, being careful not to lose her sure footing. Shuffling as close as she dared to, she peered cautiously into the hole. All was black. The abyss that she faced appeared bottomless. She shuddered as she thought about the depth of the darkness. As Sarah stared into the hole astonished, she felt woozy and dizzy. It was that feeling people get at the edge of really tall building. It made her feel uneasy and frightened. However, this is not what Sarah should have feared just then. At that moment, Sarah would have felt much more uneasy and frightened, if she had realised what was lingering beneath and staring back at her...

Explanations

What is an explanation text?

Explanations are used to explain events and processes, or to tell you how and why something works.

The structure

1. A general statement of what is going to be explained.
2. Step-by-step details of how and why the event or process happened, or how something works.

Features of the text

1. Write it in simple present tense.
2. Use time connectives like **then**, **next**, **after**.
3. Use cause and effect connectives like **because**, **so**, **this causes**.

EXPLANATION TEXT

An explanation text tells the audience **HOW** something works or **WHY** something happens. They often describe the stages of a process.

EXAMPLE
How Volcanoes Erupt

LAVA MANTLE MAGMA CRATER MOLTEN CONE

TITLE

The title of an explanation text should tell the reader exactly what the text will be about. It often includes the words **HOW** or **WHY**.

TECHNICAL DIAGRAM

Technical words are words that relate to **TOPIC** of the text. They are words that don't often use in our everyday language.

EXAMPLE
How Volcanoes Erupt

LAVA MANTLE MAGMA CRATER MOLTEN CONE

GLOSSARY

A **GLOSSARY** explains all the technical and topic specific language in the text.

EXAMPLE
How Volcanoes Erupt

LAVA: Semi-fluid hot rock that erupts from a volcano.
MANTLE: Part of the earth between the core and the crust.
CRATER: The bowl shaped surface of a volcano.
VENT: The opening on top of the crater.

EXPLANATION TEXT MAIN BODY

The **MAIN BODY** can include the following:

- An ordered set of events to explain the topic.
- Paragraphs to separate each part of the process.
- Subheadings to describe each paragraph.

Each paragraph should link to the next with an arrow or a linking sentence.

EXAMPLE
We see lightning as a bright in the sky. Sometimes we see thin line (staccato lightning), sometimes we see a large flash (blanket lightning). Let's end further how lightning is for

EXPLANATION TEXT CONCLUSION

The **CONCLUSION** should sum up the key information from the text. It should provide an answer to the question in the title.

EXAMPLE
How Airplanes Fly
Airplanes fly using powerful propellers, strong engines, wings and air pressure. This creates wind that flows over and under the wings to lift it into the sky and keep it there.

What to include:

- Title
- Introduction
- Main body
- Conclusion
- Technical words
- Diagram(s)
- Glossary

