

Crafting Nature's Rhythm: A Poetry Workshop with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To compose an original descriptive poem using expanded noun phrases, personification, and precise vocabulary to evoke the natural world.

Follow the prompts below to build your poem stanza by stanza. Focus on showing, not telling, by using your senses to describe the environment.

The silver moon climbed slowly above the silent, slumbering forest...

Word bank: shimmering · whispering · as if · beneath the canopy · transformed · vibrant · rhythmically · majestic · in the blink of an eye · consequently · furthermore

1. Stanza 1: Setting the Scene. Describe the environment using a simile or metaphor. Start with: The forest floor was... (2 marks)

2. Stanza 2: Personification. Choose an object of nature (like the wind or a tree) and describe it acting like a human. Start with: The ancient oak tree reached out its fingers to... (2 marks)

3. Stanza 3: Sensory Details. Appeal to the reader's senses (sound, smell, touch). Start with: I could hear the... (2 marks)

4. Stanza 4: Reflection. Explain why this place is important to the creatures living there. Start with: It is a sanctuary where... (2 marks)

5. Critique and Refine: Compare the impact of using 'The tree was tall' versus 'The gargantuan oak stretched its weary limbs towards the velvet sky.' Justify your choice of vocabulary. (3 marks)

6. Creative Synthesis: What might happen to the rhythm of your poem if you suddenly introduced a bustling city into the middle of the quiet forest? Explain the contrast. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Leo the Lion challenges you to rewrite your poem using the AABB rhyme scheme. Once finished, justify why you chose specific adjectives to enhance the mood of your nature scene. How does changing the structure affect the way a reader experiences your words?