Leo’s World of Poetry

Learning objective: To understand how poets use imagery, rhythm, and emotion to express ideas.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

Leo the lion sat under the ancient oak tree, his notebook resting on his golden paws. He loved writing poetry because it allowed him to paint pictures with words. Unlike a regular story, a poem has a special rhythm, almost like a heartbeat. Sometimes, Leo chose words that rhymed, making his lines bounce and skip like a playful kitten. Other times, he wrote free verse, which felt as wild and free as the wind blowing across the savannah.

'Poetry is not just about writing,' Leo explained to his friend Pip the caterpillar. 'It is about capturing a feeling, like the warmth of the sun or the shiver of a cold morning.' Leo carefully chose his adjectives to create clear imagery. He didn’t just say the sky was blue; he described it as a vast, sapphire blanket stretching over the world. By using metaphors and similes, Leo transformed simple observations into magical pieces of art. Whenever he finished a poem, he felt a sense of pride, knowing he had turned his thoughts into something that others could read, feel, and cherish forever.

Word bank: rhythm · imagery · verse · stanza · rhyme · emotion

1. What does Leo compare the rhythm of a poem to? (1 mark)

2. According to the passage, what are the two types of poetry Leo writes? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Leo uses descriptive phrases like 'sapphire blanket' instead of just saying the sky is blue? (2 marks)

4. How does Leo feel after he finishes writing a poem, and what does this tell us about his personality? (2 marks)

5. Do you think poetry is an important way to share feelings? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Leo the lion sitting under the oak tree writing his poetry. Include some of the 'images' he describes in his poems, such as a sapphire sky or a golden sun.

Extension challenge: Write your own short poem about your favourite place. Try to include one simile (a comparison using 'like' or 'as') to help the reader picture it clearly.