

Leo's Magical Words

Learning objective: To develop comprehension skills by identifying features of poetry and inferring meaning from a short text.

Read the poem below carefully. Then, answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Leo the lion sat under the ancient oak tree with his notebook. He loved to write poetry. He watched a bright red ladybird land on a leaf. He wrote: 'A tiny spot of scarlet light, dancing in the morning bright.' Leo smiled. He liked how words could paint a picture without using any paint at all. Sometimes his poems had a bouncy rhythm, like a drum beating in the grass. Other times, they were quiet and slow, like the moon rising over the hills. He thought about the sound of words. He found two words that sounded the same, like 'cat' and 'hat', or 'night' and 'light'. These were called rhymes, and they made his poem feel like a song. Leo knew that poetry wasn't just about rhyming; it was about sharing how he felt inside. Whether he was writing about the golden sun or a deep, blue pond, Leo felt happy. He believed that everyone could be a poet if they just took the time to look at the world and listen to the music hidden in their own thoughts.

Word bank: rhythm · rhyme · verse · stanza · imagination · description

1. What two things does Leo compare his poems to? (2 marks)

2. What are the two pairs of rhyming words mentioned in the text? (2 marks)

3. Why does Leo think words are better than paint for his pictures? (2 marks)

4. How do you think Leo feels when he is writing his poetry? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important for poems to rhyme? Why or why not? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Leo the lion sitting under an oak tree, writing in his notebook. Show the ladybird he is describing flying nearby.



Extension challenge: Choose an animal, such as a dolphin or an elephant, and write a short poem of your own. Try to include at least one pair of rhyming words.