

Leo the Lion's Poetry Picnic

Learning objective: To understand and respond to a poem by identifying key features and expressing personal opinions.

Read the poem below carefully. Then, answer the questions that follow using full sentences where you can.

Leo the Lion sat under the big oak tree, with a notebook on his knee. He loved to write about the sky so blue, and the morning dew that sparkled like a jewel. Leo is a poet who likes to make words dance. He writes about the golden sun and the grass that sways in the wind.

'Listen,' says Leo, as he reads his words aloud. His poem has a steady beat, like the pitter-patter of tiny feet. Some words sound the same at the end, like 'cat' and 'hat' or 'tree' and 'bee'. This is called a rhyme. When Leo writes, he feels as brave as a roar, but as gentle as a breeze. He likes to paint pictures with his words so that his friends can see the world just like he does. Whether it is about a rainy day or a bright, sunny afternoon, Leo finds magic in every line. He believes that everyone can be a poet if they listen to the world around them.

Word bank: rhyme · rhythm · verse · stanza · poet · adventure

1. Where is Leo the Lion sitting while he writes his poems? (1 mark)

2. What two words does the text use as an example of a rhyme? (1 mark)

3. How does Leo feel when he is writing his poetry? (2 marks)

4. Why does Leo write poems that 'paint pictures' for his friends? (2 marks)

5. Do you think writing poems is a fun hobby? Why or why not? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Leo the Lion sitting under a tree writing in his notebook. Don't forget to draw some of the things he writes about, like the golden sun or a buzzing bee!



Extension challenge: Try to write your own two-line poem about your favorite animal. Can you make the last words rhyme?