

Poetry Workshop: Capturing a Moment with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To use figurative language and poetic devices to create an atmospheric poem about a chosen setting.

Follow these steps to build your poem. Use the word bank to help improve your vocabulary and structure your stanzas. Remember to focus on showing your reader the scene, rather than just telling them what is happening.

The silver moonlight spilled across the forest floor like liquid stars.

Word bank: shimmering · hollow · whispering · dappled · in the blink of an eye · contrary to · beneath the surface · melancholy · radiant · echoing

1. Stanza 1: Setting the Scene. Start your poem by describing the environment using a metaphor or simile. How does the place feel? Consider starting with: 'The [noun] stood like a [noun]...' (2 marks)

2. Stanza 2: Sensory Details. Focus on what can be heard or smelled. Use personification to bring the scene to life. Consider starting with: 'The wind whispered secrets to the...' (2 marks)

3. Stanza 3: The Movement. Introduce a living thing or a change in the weather. Use an expanded noun phrase. Consider starting with: 'Suddenly, a [adjective] [noun] darted through the...' (2 marks)

4. Stanza 4: Reflection. How does this moment make the observer feel? Use an emotive word. Consider starting with: 'A sense of [emotion] settled over the...' (2 marks)

5. Review: Check your poem for rhythm. Read it aloud to Leo the Lion. Are there any words you can replace with stronger synonyms to make the imagery more vivid? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge yourself by incorporating a recurring motif (a small object or colour that appears in every stanza) to link your poem together, or try writing your poem in the style of a haiku (5-7-5 syllables) to test your word choice efficiency.