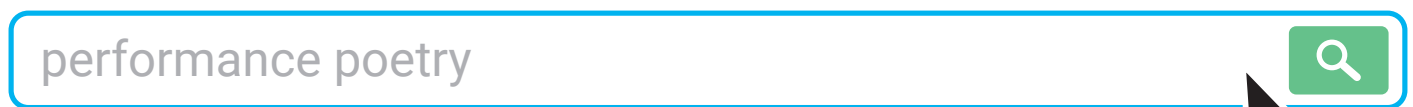


Year 6 Poetry:

A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to poetry can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring whether your child is learning new types of poem, reading poetry or working on poetic devices.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

What Is Poetry?

Why Is Poetry Important for Children?

Poetry is a great opportunity to be imaginative and expressive with language - something that many children really enjoy. Poetry isn't just great for private reading; it's often written specifically to be performed. Even children who are reluctant to read aloud in class can build confidence in public poetry reading, as the poem can be prepared and practised, or even learnt by heart.

What Is Figurative Language?

Figurative language is a way of using words to compare something to something else, beyond the literal meaning. It is used for emphasis and impact. Using figurative language makes your child's writing more interesting and also helps the reader create a mental image of the intended meaning.

By the end of year 6, your child will be used to similes, metaphors, idioms, alliteration, onomatopoeia, repetition and hyperbole. They will be expected to be able to write and analyse poetry using all the rhymes, rhythm patterns and types of language they've been taught so far.

Children spend significant amounts of time preparing for the year 6 SAT tests throughout the school year. Sometimes the SATs reading test includes a poem, but whatever the prompt material, the types of questions and skills follow a similar pattern, so we've included this type of material in this step-by-step parent guide to help your child revise and improve these areas.

How Can I Improve My Child's Reading of Poems?

When listening to your child read poetry, look for opportunities for dramatic pauses, changes of volume and expression. Children can also start to use voices, especially when reciting humorous poetry, but be prepared to talk about where this may and may not be appropriate. This helpful **BBC video** can be shared with children to explore how to perform poetry successfully.



Roll a Dice Poetry

Encourage your child to think outside the box by leaving a set poetic form behind and creating their own! Using dice, roll to decide how many syllables each line will contain and try to write a line to fit. This activity builds on your child's understanding of rhythm and format in poetry.

Paper Chain Poems

As your child reads and creates more poetry, you may wish to add some practical, hands-on activities as well to keep them engaged. Why not create some simple paper chains using lines of poetry written on strips of coloured paper? Staple, glue or tape the strips into loops chained together. You could write out a well-known or favourite poem into a paper chain, or else write your own.

Write Your Own Limerick

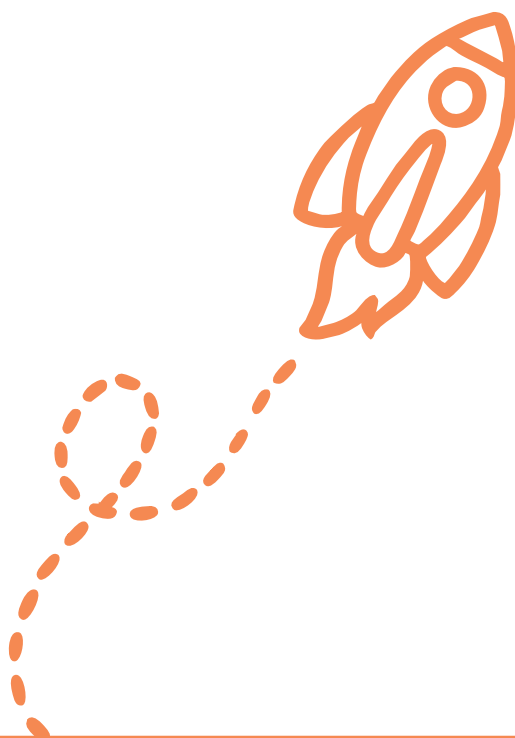
A limerick is a cheeky, humorous form of poem that follows a specific pattern, like this example:

There once was a lad called John
Who never put trousers on
All the people he'd meet
Would laugh in the street
And his friends were no more - they'd all gone!

Writing silly limericks is great fun and helps children to focus on rhythm and rhyming patterns. For a limerick, the rhythm and rhyme are the same in the first, second and fifth line. The third and fourth lines also go together with rhythm and rhyme, but are shorter than the others. Can your child come up with a silly limerick about themselves or a friend?

Rap Poetry

Search online for a rap poem being performed. A good place to start is Michael Rosen's 'The Michael Rosen Rap'. Can your child identify the repeated chorus or the way the poet structures his rap poem? Encourage your child to have a go at mimicking a similar style (e.g. 'when I was 1, I... when I was 2, I...').



Step 1

Writing and Performance Poetry Live

This fantastic activity pack gives you all the support you need to create poems about change with your child. Watch the BBC Teach Video 'Writing and Performance Poetry Live' together. Then challenge your child to use their past experiences to create similes, metaphors, alliteration and onomatopoeia to create unique poems about their lives. You'll find support sheets in the pack to help you get your child to plan and organise their work. This is a great activity for year 6, as it pulls together the figurative language they've learnt before and practises it in readiness for the SATs in a non-pressurised way.

Poetry and the Year 6 Reading Test

This handy revision mat pack contains extracts (including a poem) and review questions that mimic the expectations required in the SATs tests that your child will take in May of year 6. You'll find the key words in the question are written in bold, such as compare, explain or find; encourage your child to read the questions carefully before diving in. As well as a poetry extract, there are also further extracts and questions for fiction and non-fiction texts, as well as a helpful revision guide.

Step 2

Step 3

Host Your Own Poetry Slam

What is a poetry slam? This informative presentation looks at what's involved, as well as the benefits and drawbacks of organising a poetry slam. Use the pack as a way to convince the family to take part, perhaps including a slam as part of a dinner party or family event. You could also research theatres or other organisations in the local area to see a live poetry slam in action. Included in this pack are the Villainous Verses resources we encouraged you to use when working with your child at home in year 5 poetry.

Figurative Language Card Game

In year 6, your child revises and consolidates all the types of figurative language they have been taught. In reading and writing in poetry (and other types of writing), they will be expected to spot figurative language in others' work and use it when they write their own poems. This card-sorting game helps your child to separate one type of figurative language from another. Share the definitions on the instruction sheet first and then get your child to sort the cards. Encouraging your child to explain their reasons will help them to answer questions on the year 6 SATs reading paper.

Step 4

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Go!



twinkl
Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!