

Year 2 Poetry:

A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to year 2 poetry can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow, whether your child is learning new types of poetry, 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 However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date.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?

What Is Poetry in Year 2?

Poetry in key stage 1 encourages speaking, reading and writing skills. Children learn to read poetry and practise reciting it both individually and in unison with their class or a small group. By performing poetry with others in a group, children begin to learn the importance of timing, rhythm and pauses. When they read poetry aloud as an individual, they learn how to speak clearly and at a good volume.

What Types of Poetry Will My Child Study in Year 2?

In year 2, children will come across many different poems - some that rhyme and others that do not. It is useful at this early age to read and write some free verse poetry to help understand that not all poems must rhyme.

What Is Free Verse Poetry?

Free verse poetry is poetry that does not follow fixed rules about rhyming and rhythm. If children practise reading and writing free verse poetry while still in key stage 1, this helps their later development in poetry writing.

What Are Alliteration and Onomatopoeia?

By the end of key stage 1, children are expected to begin experimenting with alliteration and onomatopoeia in their poetry. This is the beginning of their journey into figurative language.

Alliteration is the repetition of initial letters, e.g. long-legged lion, shaggy sheep and boring Barry.

Onomatopoeia is a type of word where the sound the word makes reflects and sounds like its meaning, such as 'whoosh', 'clang' and 'crackle'.

These two types of words help to create images in the reader's mind and are therefore great for creative poetry.

Alliteration Name Game

It can be fun to join an adjective to a name using alliteration, e.g. Moany Mandy, Boring Basil and Energetic Enid. Who can come up with the most interesting and amusing names? Can your child create an alliteration name for every letter of the alphabet (except a, e, i, o and u)? Or could they find the most appropriate alliterative adjective for their friends and family members?

Old Macdonald Had a Farm

Old MacDonald contains lots of onomatopoeic words, so why not sing this famous children's song together? Where do the onomatopoeic words (e.g. the animal noises such as oink, baa, quack, neigh and moo) appear in the song? Can you extend the song to include other sound-making objects or beings, such as fireworks (with a woosh, woosh here and a woosh, woosh there) or superheroes (with a biff, pow here and a biff pow there)? Have fun making your own family version verse-by-verse.

Rhyming String Games

Although poetry doesn't have to rhyme, children still love the patterns. Use these **Twinkl Rhyming Cards** to play a fun rhyming game that could inspire future rhyming poetry.

Alliteration Stories

Make up a story based in a particular place (the park, the zoo or the supermarket), using alliteration to describe the things you can find there. Start by saying, 'I went to the zoo yesterday and I saw... a beautiful baboon'. Can you take turns to describe something for each letter of the alphabet (except a, e, i, o and u)?

Step 1

Free Verse Poetry

In reception and year 1, most poetry is based on a very lyrical style that often rhymes. Children use rhyme and enjoy learning rhythm and repeated patterns through songs. This continues in year 2 but as your child grows, it is important to appreciate that some poems don't rhyme or have a regular rhythm. Use this pack to share the poem 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright. Talk about what makes this poem special and what makes it different. Then work through the PowerPoint presentation with your child and explore the 'rules' of free verse poetry. There's also a planning sheet included to help you support your child to write their own free verse poem.

Simple Shape Poetry

Shape poetry is a great way of encouraging and challenging your children during independent writing activities. Encourage your child to plan and write each line of their poem so that it fits perfectly within the shape. This resource features a set of 8 different black and white Halloween images for them to work on and then colour. If this isn't a great theme, just type 'shape poetry template' in our search bar on the Twinkl website and you'll find similar templates on a vast range of themes. There's bound to be one that excites your child.

Step 2

Step 3

Poems to Recite and Share

This super collection of poems is specially selected for children in key stage 1. You can take turns to read the poems or recite them together in unison so that younger children can hear the intonation, volume and rhythm in people's reading. These poems by Robert Louis Stevenson, Christina Rossetti, William Makepeace Thackeray and more offer the chance for younger children to focus on using a clear, audible voice and developing a repeating rhythm.

Using Alliteration and Onomatopoeia

Once your child has explored shape poetry and free verse, it's time to put all the ideas together. Share these lovely poems already written into shapes. Can your child spot alliteration or onomatopoeia in any of them? Encourage your child to write a new version of the ghost poem or snow poem by using the style but changing the words. Use this work to encourage your child to pick a topic of their own and write a shape poem that uses alliteration for effect. How about they write a shape poem using onomatopoeia for firework sounds (words like whizz, crack, zoom)?

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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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.

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!