

Year 4 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 However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date.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. You can watch this **BBC video** for more information and to explore the fun nature of writing poetry. Some children find it easier to write to the length of a poem than to write a story.

Poets use a careful choice of words and language combined with sound and rhythm to create imaginative and emotional poetry; some of these writing tools are called 'poetic devices'. These take time for a child to learn, so reading poetry is an important step when trying to write poetry. When helping your child at home, try reading a poem and then using it as a 'model' for your child to add a verse. This prepares children for more independent writing of poetry as they grow.

How Will My Child Study Poetry in Year 4?

In year 4, your child will expand the range of poetry they study and will explore different styles of poem, building on the work from year 3. Performing and reciting poetry is still important and children will become more used to reciting poetry in front of an audience. In year 4, your child will continue to read, recite, understand and compose different types of poetry.

What Language Terms Should I Know for Year 4 Poetry?

From year 4, children are taught to use an increasingly large range of vocabulary to describe words that often appear in poems. Complicated words such as onomatopoeia, alliteration and assonance describe easy-to-learn features of language that can help to create great poems. Learning the meaning of some of these words helps children to compose better poems and to understand poems written by others.

Guess My Kenning

A kenning is a pair of words joined by a hyphen. These can be noun-noun or noun-verb. A kenning is a way of naming or describing something without using its actual name, so 'salmon-muncher', 'mouse-chaser' and 'litter-scraper' might describe a cat. Write the name of an animal, celebrity or object on a sticky note and attach it to another game player's forehead. Take turns to make a kenning that gives the guesser a clue as to what is written on their own head.

Poetry Night

Why not involve the whole family in exploring poetry? Help your child to choose a poem online or in a poetry book that each member of the family can read or learn. Can they find something that includes each person's likes or personality? Talk together about why you've chosen each poem and enjoy reading them together. Why not put on a performance of a particularly dramatic poem, such as *The Charge of the Light Brigade*? You could encourage dressing up, dimming the lights and using props to perform.

Hearing Poets Recite

Search online for video or audio clips or poets reading their own poems aloud. You may enjoy Michael Rosen reading 'Hot Food' or 'No Breathing In Class' as a starting point. How does Michael Rosen use poetic devices like rhythm and repetition in his poems? Remember to pre-search when using videos online so that children are not exposed to inappropriate content.

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.

Step 1

Haiku Poems

A haiku is a very short form of Japanese poetry written in three short lines that do not rhyme. The rules of a traditional haiku are always the same. It is normally a 3 line poem with a total of 17 syllables in the entire poem; line one has 5 syllables, line two has 7 syllables and line 3 has 5 syllables. Haiku poems are typically about nature or seasonal themes. This PowerPoint gives some examples of haikus and offers a simple structure that you and your child can follow to compose an engaging haiku yourselves. By year 4, pupils often become more tuned to rhythm in poetry and constructing haikus helps to show how the rhythm of poetry can be a literary device.

Write a Cinquain

Cinquain poetry builds on shape poetry, which is often commonly taught in the infant years. In shape poetry, children write their poem in a way that their words mark out a shape usually connected to the theme of the poem, e.g. a poem about a tree is shaped like a tree. A cinquain is different; it is a five-line poem where the first line is a single word to introduce the poem. The following lines have 2 words, 3 words, 4 words, then 1 word. Use this PowerPoint to explore the rules for cinquain poetry and then dive in and have a go.

Step 2

Step 3

Poetry Terms

Children often love a long word! It is good to keep track of which poetry words your child knows and which are still to be understood. Chat through some of these cards with your child and begin to use the words your child recognises as they look at poetry. When you read a poem together, ask your child to describe the poem's impact and explain their own understanding of it. See if they can find any language that creates images, sound effects or atmosphere. Then your child can use the cards to see which particular term describes what they're finding.

Understanding Poetry With 'The Tyger'

The Tyger is a wonderful poem that conjures up dramatic images in the reader's mind and is great poem to explore with your child. Start with a dramatic shared reading together. To develop your child's skills of reading aloud, encourage variation in volume, speed of reading and expression. You might introduce some actions into the poetry reading too. You can then move on to talk about the imagery in the poem, such as the use of fire. Why not use the Poetry Terms resource from step 3 to identify the types of language used to create effects? If you want to further assess your child's understanding of the poem, you could use the comprehension questions included in this resource pack either to discuss the poem or as a written exercise; the answers are included on a separate page to help your discussions or to review anything your child writes.

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!



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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!