

Checklist: Poem (Ages 7 - 11)

When children aged 7 - 11 are asked to write a poem, there will probably be a specific poetry type or structure they are exploring as a class. Take a look at the example texts in this pack for more information about some types of poetry your child might come across.

The checklist below lists some general poetry features that your child might be expected to learn about and use in their own poetry writing:

1. Use **powerful adjectives** (describing words) to describe **nouns** (things) in the poem. Think about the five senses.



2. Experiment with **repetition** (using the same sound or word more than once).



3. Experiment with **rhyming words** (words that end in the same sound). If a poem has a particular rhyming structure, your child should try to follow this pattern.



4. Create a **rhythm** in the poem, by taking notice of the number of **syllables** in each line. Some poems have specific syllable structures that your child might need to follow.



5. Use **stanzas** to separate lines of poetry into groups. Stanzas are like poetry paragraphs. Some types of poetry have a specific number of lines per stanza.



6. Use figurative language techniques, such as **alliteration**, to paint a picture for the reader. Alliteration involves repeating the first sound in a string of words or words that are close together in a sentence.



7. Use figurative language techniques, such as **personification**, to paint a picture for the reader. Personification gives non-human things (like animals, plants or objects) human traits or characteristics.



8. Use figurative language techniques, such as **similes**, to paint a picture for the reader. A simile is a technique that compares one thing to another, using the words 'like', 'as', 'than' and 'as if'.



9. Use figurative language techniques, such as **metaphors**, to paint a picture for the reader. A metaphor is a comparison between two things, using the words 'is' or 'was'.



10. Use figurative language techniques, such as **onomatopoeia**, to paint a picture for the reader. Onomatopoeia uses sound words to help the reader imagine what they might be hearing.

