

Example Text: Cinquain Poetry (Ages 7 - 11)

A cinquain is a poem with five lines and there are only a few words on each line. This makes them a fun choice of poem for your child to have a go at writing.

In these example texts, the poems follow a certain syllable structure. A syllable is a single sound - for example, 'dog' has one syllable, but 'puppy' has two syllables. The pattern is usually two syllables in the first line, four in the second, six in the third, eight in the fourth and two in the fifth (2-4-6-8-2).

There are other types of cinquain poetry with other structures, but this one is a great one to try with your child if they're in key stage 2 (ages 7 - 11). There is no need for rhyming words! Take a look at the examples and the features required.

Follow the **syllable structure** of a cinquain poem.

The first line is two syllables, the second line is four syllables, the third line is six syllables, the fourth line is eight syllables and the fifth line is two syllables (2-4-6-8-2).

The first word (or words) should be **nouns**. The first line should tell the reader what the poem is about or the subject of the poem.

Use some powerful descriptive words (**adjectives**) to give more information about the subject of the poem.

Include some movement or action words (**verbs**) to give information about the subject and what it is doing.

Ice cream,

• •

Sugary, smooth,

• • • •

Eating, giggling, licking,

• • • • • •

Crispy cone with three

• • • • •

tasty scoops,

• • •

Dessert.

• •

Penguin,

• •

Jet black, pure white,

• • • •

Waddling, leaping, diving,

• • • • • •

Tuxedo in the cold water,

• • • • • •

Flightless.

• •

5 Include a **feeling** word. This could be an emotion that is felt about the subject or it could be something that can physically be touched (a texture).

6 The final line should **conclude** the poem. Often, a noun is used that might be a synonym of the first word. A synonym is a word that has a similar meaning to another word.

7 Start each line of poetry with a **capital letter**.

8 Separate lists of words or lines of poetry with **commas**.

9 End the poem with a **full stop**.

Your child could see if they can include a **figurative language technique** in their cinquain poem.

For example, the ice cream poem includes some **alliteration**, which involves repeating the first sound in a string of words or words that are close together in a sentence. Here, the poem uses 'sugary, smooth' and 'crispy cone'.

In the penguin poem, there is an example of a **metaphor**, which is a comparison between two things, saying something 'is' something else. This poem says a penguin is a 'tuxedo in the cold water'.