

Example Text: Free Verse Poetry (Ages 7 - 11)

A free verse poem does not require you to follow any structure or pattern. Your child can use any number of lines and syllables. Their poem can rhyme or it might not. This type of poetry is entirely up to them! You might want to encourage them to use some of the techniques in the checklist below. There are also some free verse examples to look through for ideas.

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

2 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.

3 Try to include 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.

Why is it always me caught in the rain?

Pitter patter, drip drop,

The raindrops roll, racing down my arms and face.

Pitter patter, drip drop,

Like footsteps on the pavement,
the raindrops seem to dance
over my head.

A rumble, a groan, a crackle,

The moody thunderstorm warns everyone to find cover.

Sticky, humid air and grey, angry skies,

A camera flash of lightning in a heartbeat,

Then thunder replies, crashing and tumbling,

The conversation continues,

As I hurry home,

Feeling frightfully small.

4 Try to include 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.

5 Try to include 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'.

6 Try to include 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'.

7 Your child might like to use **repetition** or **rhyme** in their poem, but they don't have to.

8 Your child might want to separate their lines of poetry into **stanzas** (groups of lines of poetry, separated by a space - like poetry paragraphs). They don't have to though. This poem is just one stanza.