

Example Text: Narrative Poetry (Ages 7 - 11)

Odes are thought to originate in ancient Greece, where people would sing or chant odes to celebrate sporting victories. Odes have also been used to express emotions by romantic poets.

An ode is a **short poem**, with **no specific structure**. Odes are written to praise or celebrate something, like an event, a person, an animal or an object. These poems also don't have to rhyme, but your child can make them rhyme if they'd like to. Take a look at these examples and the features required.

1

Use words to **celebrate** or **praise** something, like an event, a person, an animal or an object. Encourage your child to express their **feelings** about the subject of their poem.

2

Use **powerful adjectives** to describe the subject. Adjectives are describing words that give more information about nouns (things).

3

The first line should introduce the **subject** of the poem. Usually, odes begin with 'Oh, (subject name)!'.

Write the poem **directly to the subject**. See if your child can imagine they are speaking to the subject, using words such as 'you' and 'your'. You will find that this makes the object or event seem like a human, so this can also be an example of **personification**. For example, the 'Ode to Bacon' talks about the bacon spitting, which makes it sound like it has human qualities.

4

Ode to Bacon

Oh, crispy, crunchy bacon!

You crackle like an ancient witch,

When I hear you spit and sizzle,

My mouth begins to water,

You brighten even the
worst mornings,

With that delicious, tempting scent.

Ode to Fireworks

Oh, fizzling, fantastic fireworks!

You shoot into the **starry sky like rockets taking flight.**

You are showers of glitter,

Pouring rainbows down on **awestruck** crowds.

When I see your explosion of colour and light,

I could burst with glee and delight.

5 Lots of odes use **hyperbole**, which is a figurative language technique. Hyperbole is any form of extreme exaggeration in writing. In an ode, your child will be trying to exaggerate how wonderful something is.

6 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.

7 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'.

8 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'.