

KS3 poetry time

Playing with words / working with words - what's the difference?

Here's a collection of words to play with. Imagine that they are fridge magnets, except you can use each one as many times as you like. See what you can make **only** using the words given. If you really *really*, need to add extra words, use as few as possible. Each of these words can be repeated, though.

a an ancient and are ashore Atlantic baby beach black blue box breakers
broomstick colour corners cowboy dinosaurs dragon electric fifth fire first
fish from gold great high-rolling hinges horse I ice in is its joints joke last leaping
lid man my night nostrils of on put rumbling sari season secrets shall silk sip smile
snow spark spoken stars steel summer sun surf swish the then three toe tongue tooth
top touching uncle violet was wash water white wild wishes witch with yellow

Your magic box

Imagine you had a box into which you could put anything. Anything! This would be a box of things you would give to someone special - for a birthday or a get well gift or just to cheer them up. Your box could contain something as small as a snail or as big as a football field. It can hold things you can't usually get hold of at all, like a smile or a sunny day.

First, make a list of as many things as you can. Then take four of the best and make them into a four line verse. Try to make the lines roughly the same length. Sometimes you might add some words to describe the objects, so that instead of 'a cat' you might say 'a fluffy cat' or 'a purring cat'. (You could even say 'a purry cat' because in poems you can make up words, too.) For example:

In my magic box there's
A fluffy cat
And a clockwork mouse
A lovely smile
And a field of flowers
- All in my magic box!

Once you've written one, you can write another.
It might rhyme but it doesn't have to.



Seven little dinosaurs

Here's a way of making a long poem from a little idea. I've chosen dinosaurs but you could choose any living thing from astronauts to lunchtime helpers. You'll notice the ones I've mentioned all have several syllables. That just makes the poem sound better. It begins like this:

Seven little dinosaurs

Getting in a fix

One fell in a swamp

And then there were six

Six little dinosaurs

..... (*rhyme with five*)

One

And then there were five

And so on down to none (or zero, if you prefer). You'll see the tricky part is getting a rhyme at the end of the second line for the numbers six down to zero. It's worth thinking through as many rhymes as possible before you decide. Like any good poet, you'll need to do a bit of crossing out before you're satisfied.

Have fun - and make sure you read them out loud.

