

Outdoor Number Poems

Use a simple framework to create effective poetry

5-9

Writing



Background

Many poems are shaped around a number sequence or rhythm and it can provide useful scaffolding for creating poetry.

Rhyming verse often requires the same number of syllables per line.

Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry comprising of 3 lines. The first and last have 5 syllables and the middle line has 7. They rarely rhyme and often feature images to capture the essence of a moment, a place or a scene.

The Fibonacci sequence could even inform the number of syllables per line i.e. (1.1.2.3.5.8).

Equipment

- Flat tarmac space
- Availability of small natural materials like pebbles, twigs, leaves, seeds and so on
- Chalk

Activity

1. Have the children in groups of 5 and number the team members from 1-5.
2. Number 1's bring back 1 natural object that catches their eye for their group.
3. Number 2's bring back 2 matching natural objects different from the first object.
4. Number 3's bring back 3, different from the other items gathered by their group and so on.
5. The groups then lay out a phrase as: **Number - Adjective - Alliteration - Noun** e.g. "Three green, spiky, conker-cases."
6. The group writes out their lines in numerical order as a poem - either on paper or chalked onto the playground.



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