

Build a Poem: Poetry or Prose?

Communication

All people have basic needs for food, water, and air to breathe. People also have a need to express their thoughts and emotions.

Communication means showing outwardly what you are thinking or feeling inside. Some ways of self expression are through oral language (talking), sign language, drama, music, drawing, and writing.

Cry Baby

At first, when you were a baby, all you could do to express yourself was to cry because you had no words. Then, you learned to talk!

Then, you went to school. You learned to express your thoughts and feelings by writing them down on paper. That was a wonderful discovery!

Prose and Poetry

Prose and Poetry are two ways of writing. Both ways can be effective communication. Prose is writing like you are talking – in a conversational way. Poetry is writing like you are flying on a magic carpet.

Here are two writings to show the same information written in prose and poetry.

Prose:

Once there was a cat and a fiddle. They met a cow. The cow jumped over the moon. A little dog laughed. He thought it was funny to see the cow jump over the moon. Then a plate ran away with an eating utensil that holds food.

Poetry:

Hey, Diddle, Diddle,

the cat and the fiddle.

The cow jumped over the moon.

The little dog laughed to see such sport,

and the dish ran away with the spoon.

Now You Can Write Prose

Read this poem story. Write the story in Prose. See the example above.

*Jack and Jill went up the hill
to fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down
and broke his crown (his head)
and Jill came tumbling after. (Draw a picture)*

Learn to Write by Writing

Start a Writing Journal. Save your work. See Poems as Prose. See Prose as Poetry. Put your words together any way you want.

Erase, rewrite, until YOU like it. Read your work to someone you love.

You are the Builder and words are your tools.

Build a Poem Construction Tools

Personification (Per-son-i-fi-ca'-tion)

Tools are helpful to build a skyscraper. Workers have to know how to use the tools. There are also construction tools that can help you build a poem. One of the tools you can use is called Personification. That means that you write about animals, objects, or nature like they are a person.

Example #1:

*“Twinkle, twinkle, little star.
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high.
Like a diamond in the sky.”*

The poet is talking to the star as if the star can understand. The poet is ‘personifying’ the Star.
Lines 1 and 2 rhyme: star/are. Lines 3 and 4 rhyme: high/sky

Example #2:

“Rain, rain, go away.

Come again another day.

Little Mary wants to play.”

What kind of weather does the poet make human? (the rain). The poet is ‘personifying’ the Rain. All three lines rhyme: away/day/play.

Now You Can Do It!

- Write a poem like you are Talking to a Bird. You are ‘personifying’ the Bird.
- Give your poem a Title.
- Write your Name. (you are the Author)

Word Bank: bird word heard high sky fly my by blue green too you
wings sings me see be tree are far up down play day away
say way may am nest best clouds sun fun run friend end

- Draw a picture of your Bird. (you are the Illustrator)
- Read your poem to someone you love.

Learn to Write by WRITING!

Hey
Diddle
Diddle

