

Defining & Writing Poetry

A resource for introducing students to identifying and writing different types of poetry.

Includes 8 different types of poetry, each with an information page, original examples, organizers for each type of poetry, and stationery pages for writing.



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Ideas for Use

Thank you for purchasing this product!

Poetry is so much fun to read, especially when it's written by your students! This packet will define several different types of poetry to help your students to gain an understanding of how different poems are written. I have included 8 different styles of poetry, each with a page that defines the style, and breaks it down for a student to follow and understand. These will be a great writing activity and if you use one per day it can easily get you through two weeks of writing poetry.

Of course, this resource will be much more valuable if you take the time to pull different books with examples of each type of poetry. Children love to read poems aloud so you can use different books to practice fluency each day and reinforce the ideas presented in this packet. Here are just a few suggestions:

An A-Z of Looney Limericks by Bernie Morris

Sick by Shel Silverstein for couplets

Any other books by Shel Silverstein

Won Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku by Lee Wardlaw

Doodle Dandies: Poems that Take Shape by J. Patrick Lewis

Any books in the Poetry for Young People series

Poetry speaks to children book and CD - you'll love this series!

Anything by Jack Prelutsky

Love That Cat and Hate That Dog, both by Sharon Creech

Hailstones and Halibut Bones by Mary O'Neill

Here's an idea that I have used in the past:

As you teach each poem, have students collect their final drafts of each poem in a folder. When you have covered all of the poetry that you would like to, then have students either type their poems and then print them out or just bind their poems together. If you three-hole punch their pages, then tie them with their favorite color ribbon, you will love the outcome. Of course, you will want a cover for their work, so I've included a cover page for them to use too!

I have had students write in April, making the topic a special woman in their lives. This way they had a nice gift to present to that special someone on Mother's Day or any day that they wanted to! This could easily be done throughout the year. Integrate poetry into social studies, math, and science too! I hope you will find many ways to enjoy this product throughout the year!

Thanks again for purchasing this product. All poems included were written by me! I'm always posting additional ideas on my blog, www.mrsoknows.blogspot.com. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional ideas. I am happy to help! Happy teaching!

Smiles,
Mrs. O



Cinquain

A five-line poem describing a subject
in the following form:

- Line 1: one word (a subject or noun)
- Line 2: two words (adjectives) that describe line 1
- Line 3: three action words (verbs ending in -ing) that relate to line 1
- Line 4: four words (short phrase) that relates to line 1
- Line 5: one word (a synonym) for line 1 or a word that "sums up" the poem

Examples

Mom
Lovely, pretty
Shopping, baking, smiling
She is very amazing
Mother

Cats
Cute, Cuddly
Purring, Meowing, Chasing
The best pet ever
Kitty



Name _____

Date _____

Cinquain

Directions: Write a cinquain poem about an animal or a special person in your life. Plan your poem on this page first and then write your poem on the next page.

Animal name/Person's name or title: _____

Two words that describe this animal or person:

Three action words that relate to your person or animal ending in "-ing":

Four words (a short phrase) about your person or animal:

A synonym for your person or animal or a word that "sums up" your poem:

Name _____

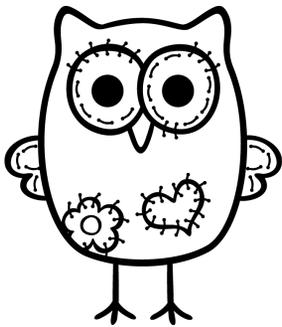
Date _____

Cinquain

Acrostic Poem

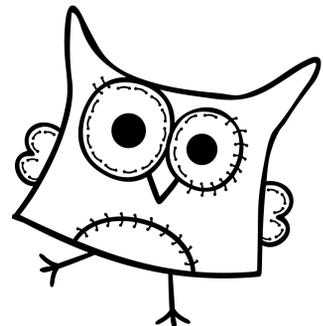
An acrostic poem is one where you choose a word or name and write it vertically, using each letter in the name as the beginning of a word or line that tells something about that person or topic.

Examples:



Rachel likes baseball
Always reads before bed
Cares for animals
Helpful to others
Excellent attitude
Likes to listen to music

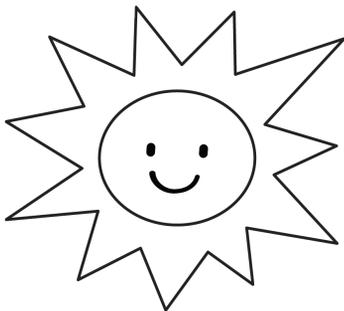
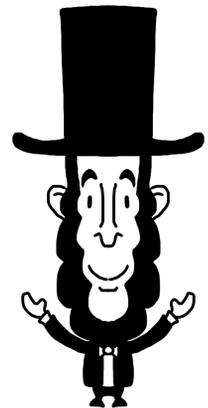
Stands up for himself
Tries his best
Eager to learn
Very funny
Excellent friend



Acrostic Poem

Remember that an acrostic poem does not have to be your name. It can be the name of a historical figure, a storybook character, a geographic location, or a vocabulary word for any subject. Here are some additional examples:

Always supported African Americans
Believed in equal rights
Respected
A great president
Honest
A man of character
Many were inspired by him



Sun is strong
Unlikely to be cold
Many trips to the beach
More fun with friends
Eat ice cream to stay cool
Ready for vacation?

Name _____ Date _____

Acrostic Poem

Use this page to plan your writing.

Who or what are you writing about?

As you list each letter of the subject of your poem, write words that start with that letter that describe the subject that you are writing about.

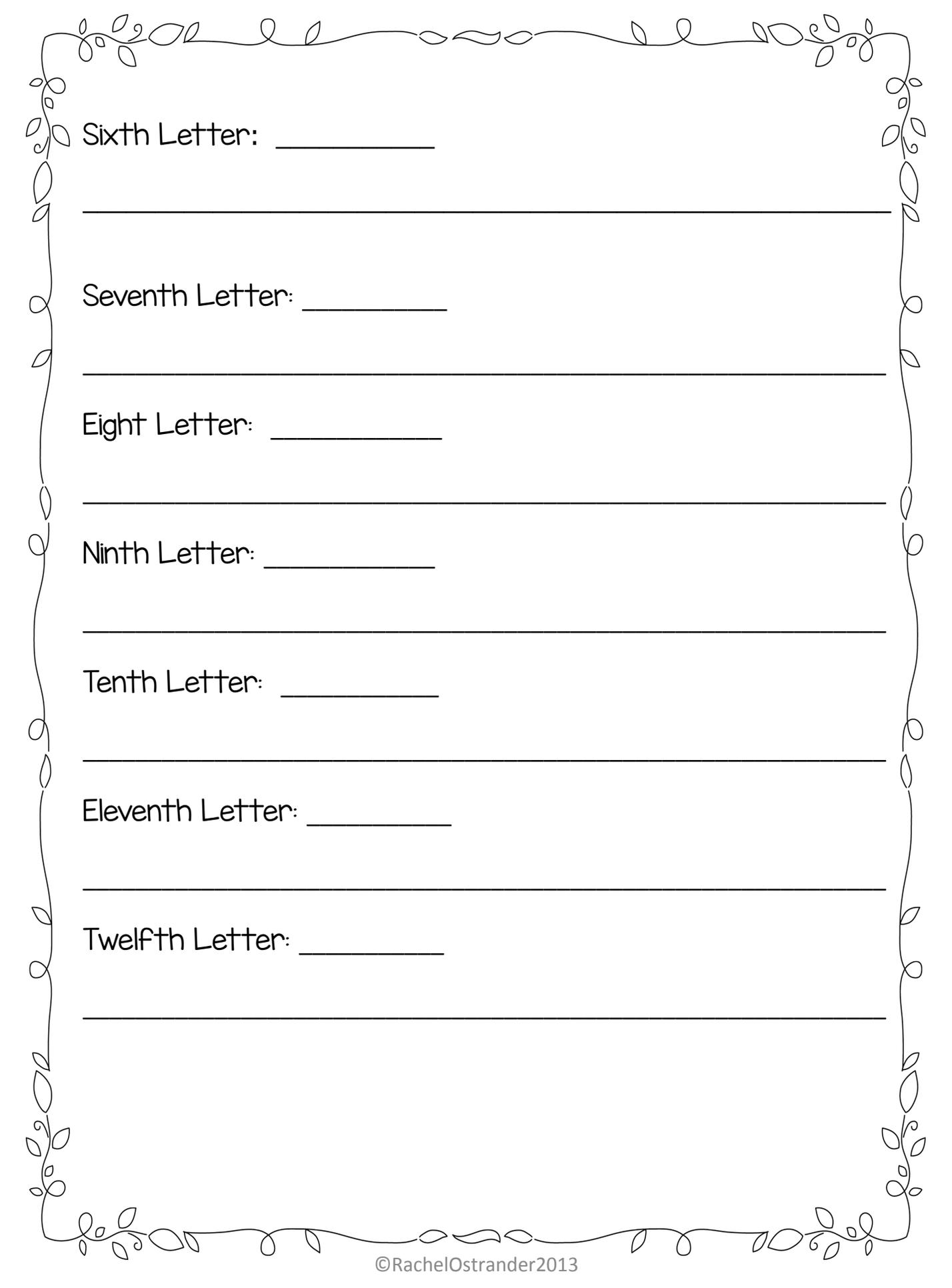
First Letter: _____

Second Letter: _____

Third Letter: _____

Fourth Letter: _____

Fifth Letter: _____

A decorative border with a repeating pattern of leaves and vines surrounds the page.

Sixth Letter: _____

Seventh Letter: _____

Eight Letter: _____

Ninth Letter: _____

Tenth Letter: _____

Eleventh Letter: _____

Twelfth Letter: _____

COUPLETS

A couplet is a two-lined verse. Both lines rhyme and are about the same topic. The rhyming words are at the end of each line. Couplets have a rhythm. You can combine couplets to create a rhyming poem.

Examples of individual couplets:

I love to read on a rainy day,
But if it's sunny I go out to play.

Whenever I cry my mom gives me a hug,
Unless I've spilled juice on her brand new rug.

The sun brightens the sky as it raises above.
It kisses the Earth to show it's love.

Monkeys enjoying a tasty treat.
A banana to peel between their feet.



COUPLETS EXAMPLE

In the examples, you will notice:

- Each pair has a rhyming end word. The words don't have to be spelled the same, they just have to have the same end sound.
- Each pair of couplets has the same rhythm

Right now, there are only two lines of poetry, but adding more couplets about the same topic will help you to grow a rhyming poem. If you're stuck for ideas, don't worry. Sometimes it helps to just brainstorm words that remind you of the topic that you are writing about. When you put couplets together, you can create a rhyming poem. Here's an example:

My mother taught me how to read.
My mother loves me, yes indeed.

My mother taught me how to walk.
She even taught me how to talk.

My mother hugs me when I'm sad,
and knows how to stop me from feeling bad.

My mother always cooks me food,
but she doesn't put up with my attitude.

My mother loves me, can't you see?
I love her as much as she loves me.



Name _____ Date _____

COUPLETS & BRAINSTORM

What topic do you want to write about?

Make a list of words that are related to your topic.

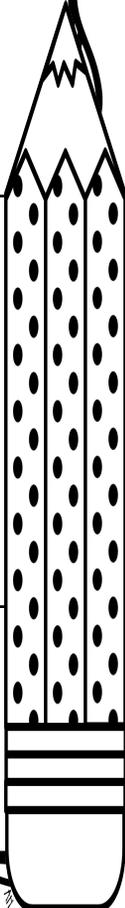
Now, write the first line of your couplet.

As you prepare to write your second line, ask yourself:

- 1) What word will rhyme with the end word in the first line?
- 2) What is the rhythm of my first line?

Write your second line below.

Hooray! You've written your first couplet! Now let's try some more!



Name _____ Date _____

COUPLETS

Directions: Try writing a few different couplets about different topics.

#1:

#2:

#3:



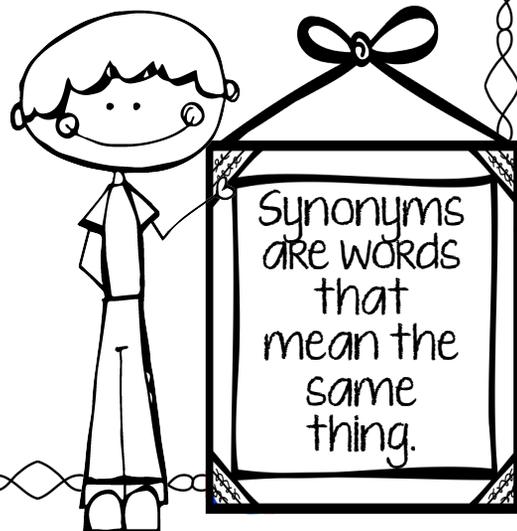
Synonym Diamante Poems

Diamante Poems have seven lines and are diamond-shaped. There are two types of diamante poems, synonym diamante, and antonym diamante.

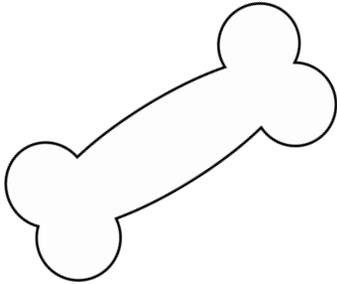
A synonym diamante begins and ends with the same topic.

To write a synonym diamante, follow these directions:

- Line 1: A noun. The subject of the poem.
- Line 2: Two adjectives related to the subject.
- Line 3: Three verbs ending in -ing that describe the subject.
- Line 4: Two short phrases that describe the subject.
- Line 5: Three verbs ending in -ing that describe the subject DIFFERENT from those used in line 3.
- Line 6: Two adjectives related to the subject that are DIFFERENT from those used in line 2.
- Line 7: A synonym for the original noun.



Synonym Diamante Poem Example



Dog

Loving, loyal

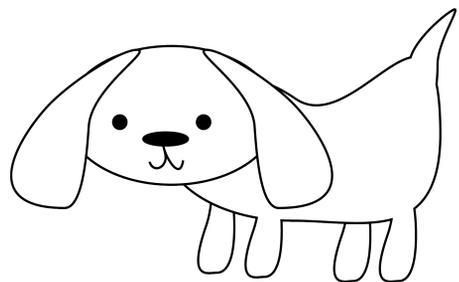
Begging, Barking, Drooling

Fluffy Friend, Amazing Pet

Playing, Sleeping, Eating

Happy, Adorable

Puppies



Name _____

Date _____

Synonym Diamante Poem

Directions: Plan your diamante below. Then write your final poem on the next page.

Line 1: A noun. The subject of the poem.

Line 2: Two adjectives related to the subject.

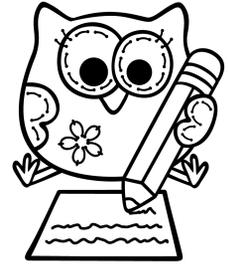
Line 3: Three verbs ending in -ing that describe the subject.

Line 4: Two short phrases that describe the subject.

Line 5: Three verbs ending in -ing that describe the subject
DIFFERENT from those used in line 3.

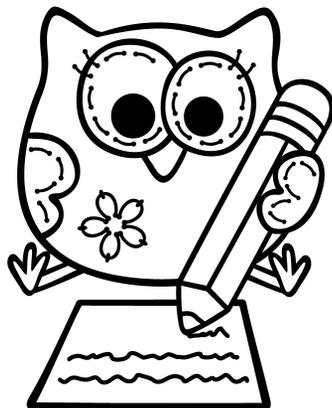
Line 6: Two adjectives related to the subject that are
DIFFERENT from those used in line 2.

Line 7: A synonym for the original noun.



Name _____ Date _____

Synonym Diamante Poem



Antonym Diamante Poems

Diamante Poems have seven lines and are diamond-shaped. There are two types of diamante poems, synonym diamante, and antonym diamante.

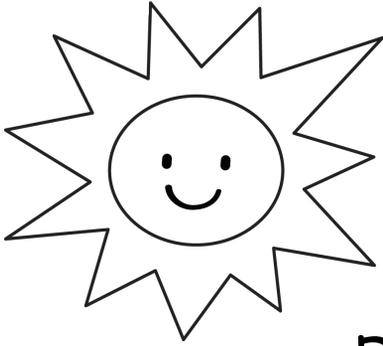
An antonym diamante begins with one topic and ends with a completely opposite topic.

To write an antonym diamante, follow these directions:

- Line 1: A noun. The subject of the poem.
- Line 2: Two adjectives related to the subject.
- Line 3: Three verbs ending in -ing that describe the subject.
- Line 4: Two short phrases. The first phrase describe the original subject. The second phrase describes the second subject that the poem will end with. This is where you switch to the second subject.
- Line 5: Three verbs ending in -ing that describe the second subject.
- Line 6: Two adjectives related to the second subject.
- Line 7: An antonym for the original noun. The second subject of the poem.



Antonym Diamante Poem



Sun

Bright, Steamy

Shining, Heating, Blazing

Brilliant Light, Muddy Puddles

Cooling, Soaking, Drenching

Damp, Wet

Rain



Name _____ Date _____

Antonym Diamante Poem

Directions: Plan your diamante below. Then write your final poem on the next page.

Line 1: A noun. The subject of the poem.

Line 2: Two adjectives related to the subject.

Line 3: Three verbs ending in -ing that describe the subject.

Line 4: Two short phrases. The first phrase describe the original subject. The second phrase describes the second subject that the poem will end with.

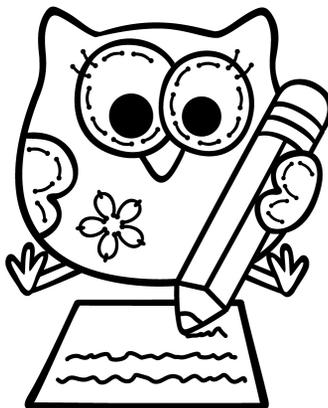
Line 5: Three verbs ending in -ing that describe the second subject.

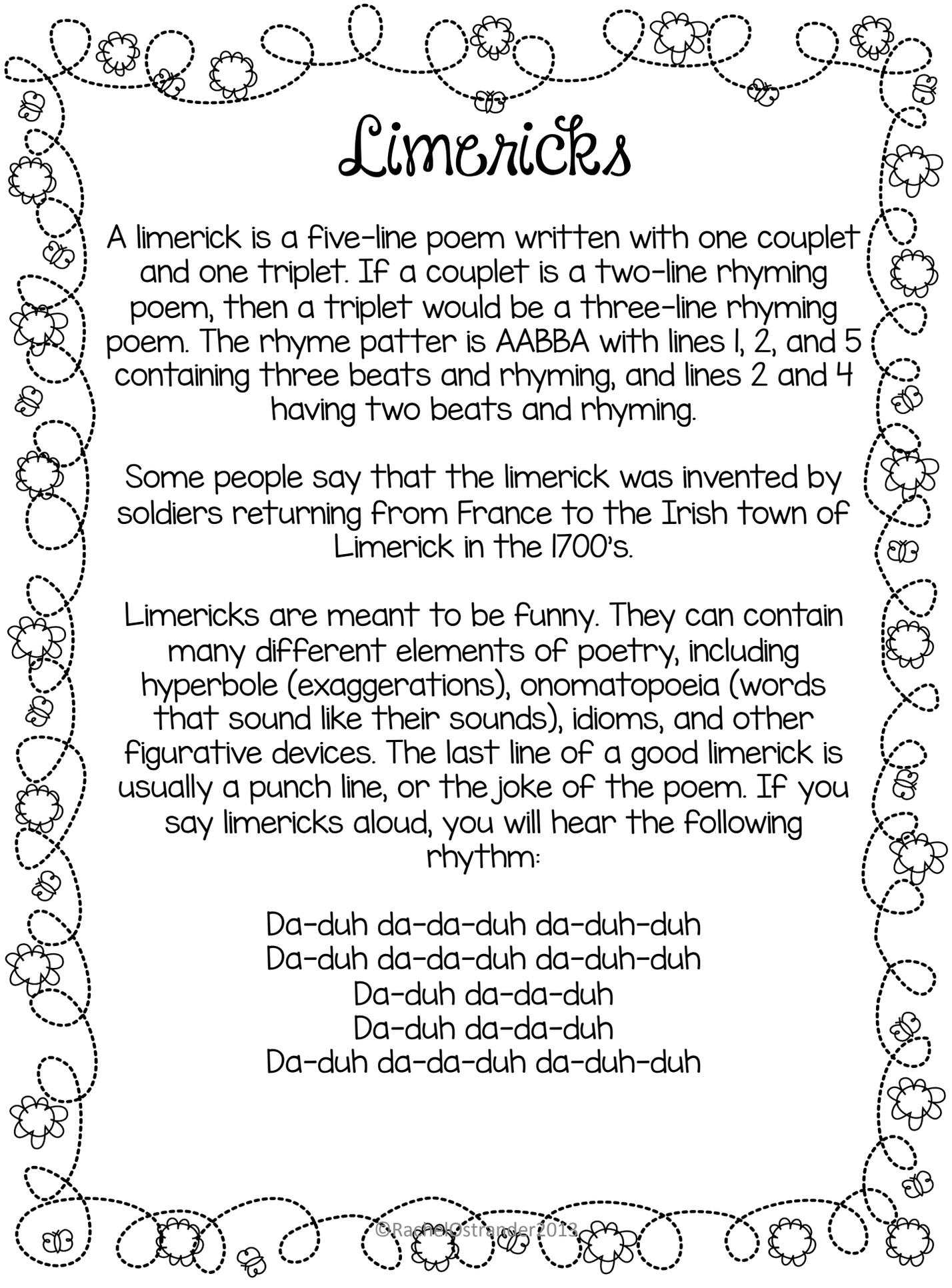
Line 6: Two adjectives related to the second subject

Line 7: An antonym for the original noun. The second subject.

Name _____ Date _____

Antonym Diamante Poem





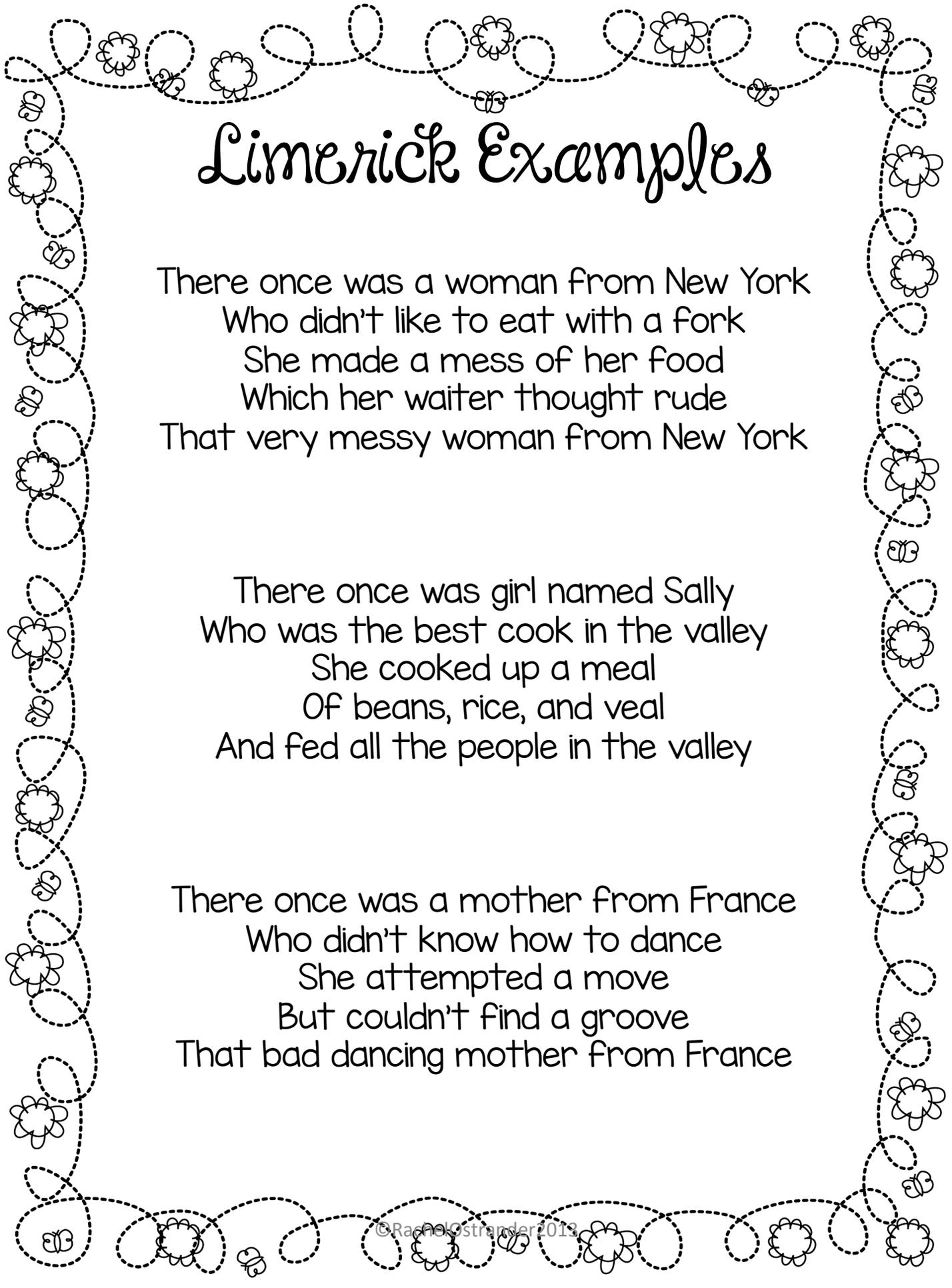
Limericks

A limerick is a five-line poem written with one couplet and one triplet. If a couplet is a two-line rhyming poem, then a triplet would be a three-line rhyming poem. The rhyme pattern is AABBA with lines 1, 2, and 5 containing three beats and rhyming, and lines 2 and 4 having two beats and rhyming.

Some people say that the limerick was invented by soldiers returning from France to the Irish town of Limerick in the 1700's.

Limericks are meant to be funny. They can contain many different elements of poetry, including hyperbole (exaggerations), onomatopoeia (words that sound like their sounds), idioms, and other figurative devices. The last line of a good limerick is usually a punch line, or the joke of the poem. If you say limericks aloud, you will hear the following rhythm:

Da-duh da-da-duh da-duh-duh
Da-duh da-da-duh da-duh-duh
 Da-duh da-da-duh
 Da-duh da-da-duh
Da-duh da-da-duh da-duh-duh



Limerick Examples

There once was a woman from New York
Who didn't like to eat with a fork
She made a mess of her food
Which her waiter thought rude
That very messy woman from New York

There once was girl named Sally
Who was the best cook in the valley
She cooked up a meal
Of beans, rice, and veal
And fed all the people in the valley

There once was a mother from France
Who didn't know how to dance
She attempted a move
But couldn't find a groove
That bad dancing mother from France

Name _____ Date _____

Limerick Writing

Directions: Fill in the blanks to create your own limericks.

There once was a _____ from _____

Who _____

So she/he _____

And _____

That _____ from _____

I once met a _____ from _____

Every day she/he _____

But whenever she/he _____

The _____

That _____ from _____

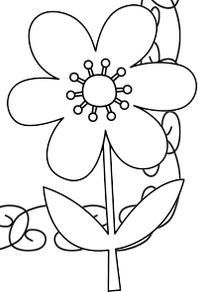
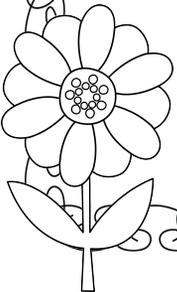
Haiku

The haiku originated in Japan in the 17th century. It is a poem written in three lines. The haiku does not rhyme. Instead, the haiku sets a mood or portrays a feeling or scenery. These poems tend to be tied in to nature or the four seasons. They often express our emotions.

The entire haiku is composed of 17 syllables.
The first line contains five syllables.
The second line has seven syllables.
The third or final line has five syllables.
The pattern is 5-7-5.

There is no firm rule regarding capitalization and punctuation in a haiku. These things are usually decided by the poets on a poem-by-poem basis.

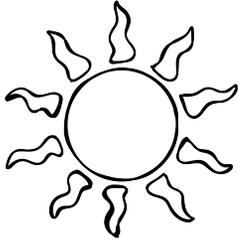
Feel free to try different topics with haikus. Animals are always fun to do, but what about your favorite sport? You could easily write a haiku about just about anything. What would you like to try?



Haiku Examples

Season/Weather Haikus

The cold winter wind
sways the trees this way and that
Whipping them around



Sun brightens the ground
Lighting our canvas of grass
Loving Mother Earth

Rain splatters the ground
Hitting it with its drip-drops
Feeding thirsty grass

People Haikus

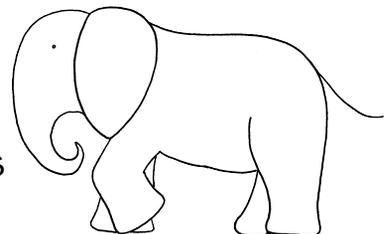
Beautiful mother
Shining her love down on me
Loving me for me

Baby brother cries
Waiting for his warm bottle
Lying in his crib

Animal/Insect Haikus

Bees buzz through the air
Flying flower to flower
Spreading love around

Elephants travel
Walking their heavy bodies
Looking for a home



Step-By-Step Haiku

What are some topics that you'd like to write about?

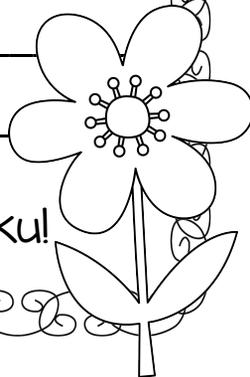
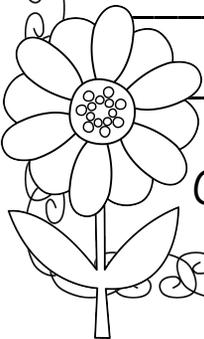
Choose one topic to write about. Your first line will be focused on this topic and be 5 syllables. Write your first line below.

Stay focused on this topic. Your second line will be 7 syllables. Write your second line below.

Continue to write on this topic. Your third line will be 5 syllables. Write your third line below.

Now put your three lines together.

Congratulations, you've written your first haiku!



Name _____

Date _____

Write a Haiku

Directions: Now it's your turn to try some haikus of your own. Try a few different topics and feel free to experiment with some of your own. Let's see how many haikus you will write! Don't forget to count those syllables and stick with the 5-7-5 pattern!

Haiku #1:

(5 syllables)

(7 syllables)

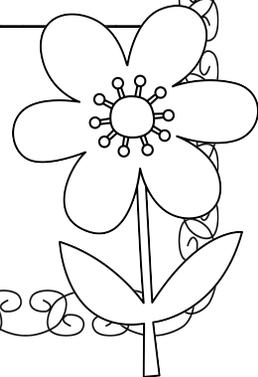
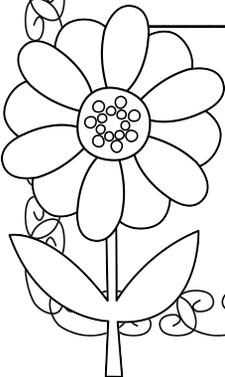
(5 syllables)

Haiku #2:

(5 syllables)

(7 syllables)

(5 syllables)



Haiku #3

(5 syllables)

(7 syllables)

(5 syllables)

Haiku #4:

(5 syllables)

(7 syllables)

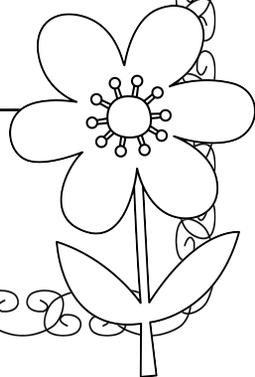
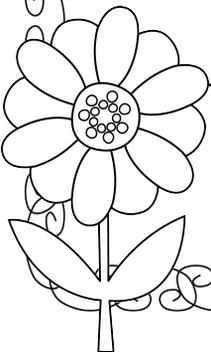
(5 syllables)

Haiku #5:

(5 syllables)

(7 syllables)

(5 syllables)



Concrete or Shape Poem

A concrete or shape poem uses words to make the contour of the shape that is suggested by the topic. The words do not have to rhyme and many times there are small words used to create the poem. When you are starting out, you can draw the shape and then insert the words, but your goal should be to eventually use the words to make the shape.

Here's an example using the words to create the topic, which is rain.

R
A
I
N

D
R
I
Z
Z
L
E

P
O
U
R
I
N
G

S
P
R
I
N
K
L
E

M
I
S
T

R
A
I
N

p

D

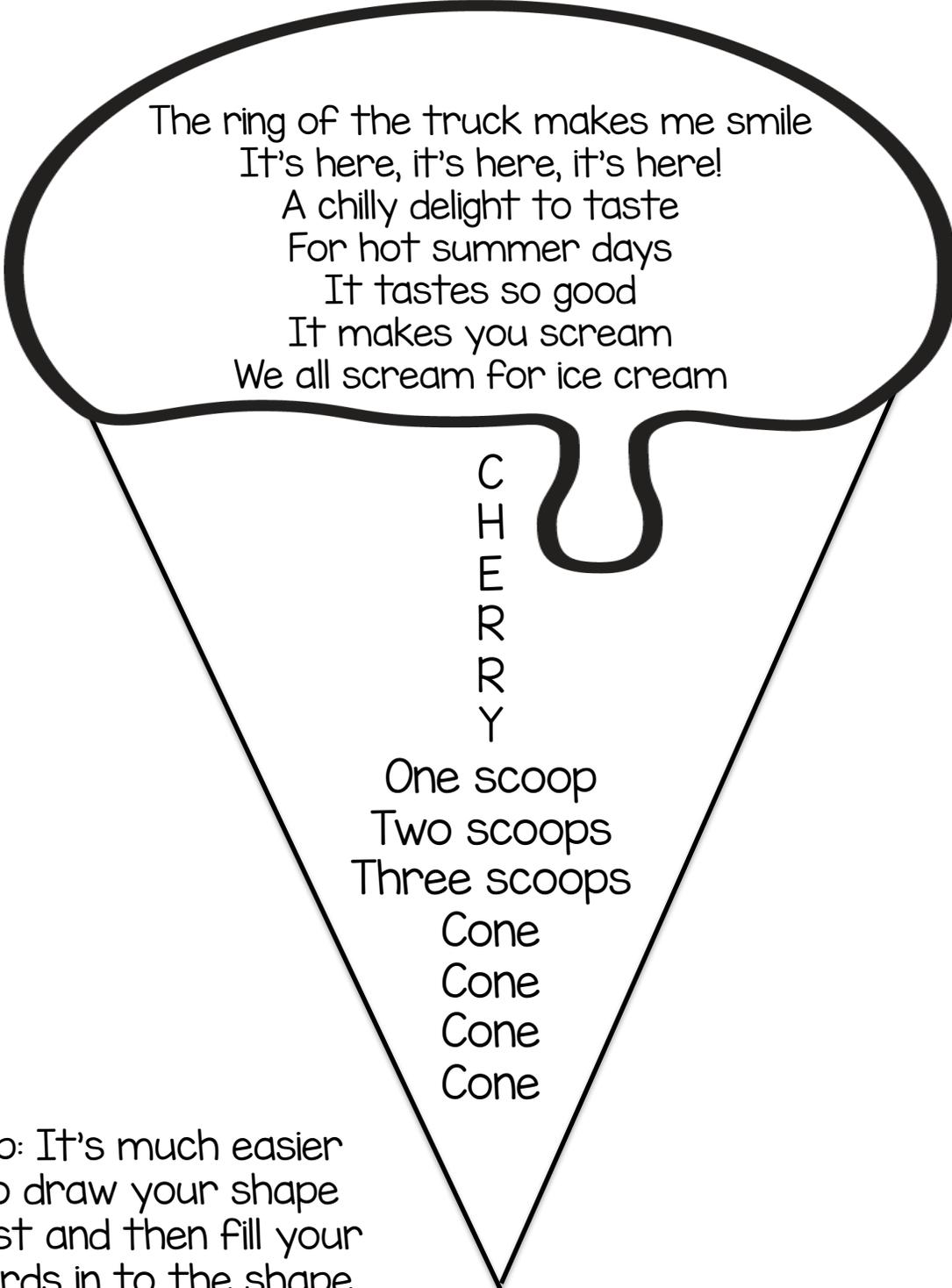
L

U

D

E

Shape Poem Example



The ring of the truck makes me smile
It's here, it's here, it's here!
A chilly delight to taste
For hot summer days
It tastes so good
It makes you scream
We all scream for ice cream

C
H
E
R
R
Y

One scoop
Two scoops
Three scoops
Cone
Cone
Cone
Cone

Tip: It's much easier
to draw your shape
first and then fill your
words in to the shape.

Name _____

Date _____

Concrete or Shape Poem

Directions: Now it's time to try your own shape poem. For your first poem, you might be more comfortable drawing your shape first and filling the words in inside the shape. To achieve the next step of poetry, think about what words you could write in place of the outlining shape. Be creative!

Seasonal Sensory Poem

A seasonal poem is about a season and it is a free-verse poem, which means that it does not rhyme. It highlights your five senses. It has seven lines that follow these rules:

Line 1: Name of the season

Line 2: Something you see in this season

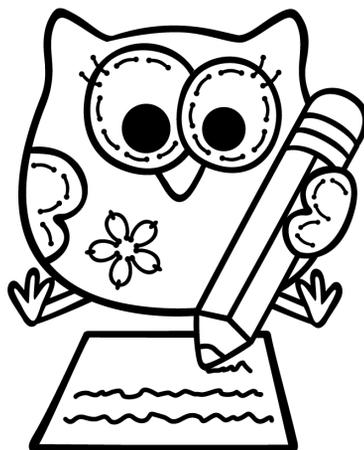
Line 3: Something you smell in this season

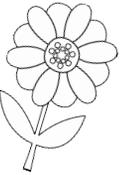
Line 4: Something you hear in this season

Line 5: Something you taste in this season

Line 6: Something you feel during this season

Line 7: Name of the season





Spring Example



Spring

Grass growing

Flowers blooming

Rain falling on the pavement

Sugary sweets from your Easter basket

Puddles splashing beneath your feet

Spring

Summer Example



Summer

Boats sailing on the water

Hot dogs cooking on the grill

Children playing in the yard

Tasty ice cream with many scoops

The sun hugging you in its warmth

Summer



Fall Example



Fall

Apple trees filled with delicious snacks

Spices simmering in the air

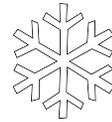
Crowds cheering on the home football team

Pumpkin pies topped with sweet whipped cream

Leaves you've raked to make giant piles

Fall

Winter Example



Winter

Snowflakes falling softly on the ground

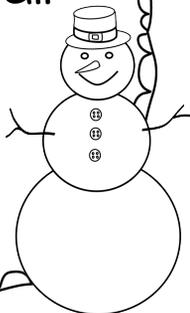
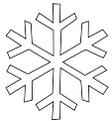
Smoke pouring out of chimneys

Bells ringing and jingling

Hot chocolate to warm you up

Heavy, wet snow for a perfect snowball

Winter



Name _____

Date _____

Seasonal Sensory Poem

Planning Page

Directions: Now it's time to try your own seasonal sensory poem. Draft your poem on this page then write your final draft on the next.

Line 1: Name of the season

Line 2: Something you see in this season

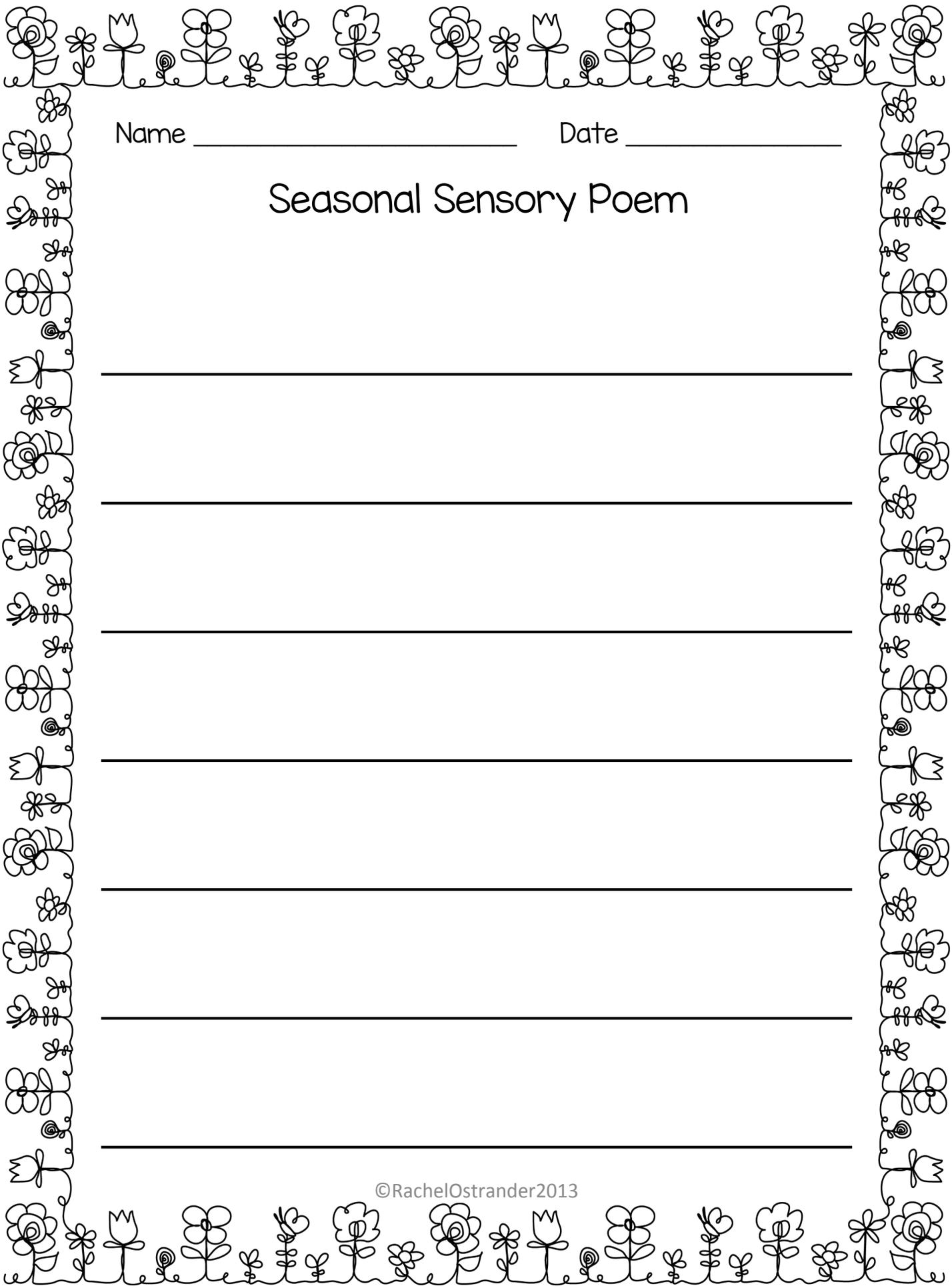
Line 3: Something you smell in this season

Line 4: Something you hear in this season

Line 5: Something you taste in this season

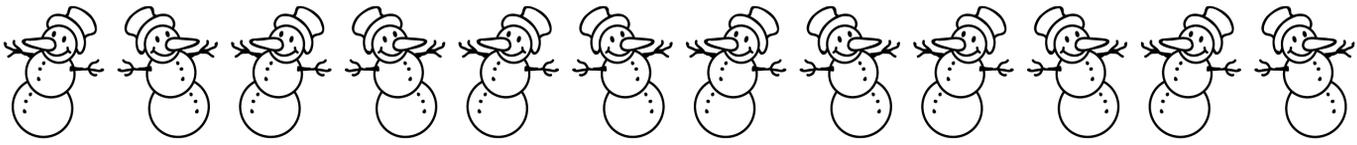
Line 6: Something you touch during this season

Line 7: Name of the season

A decorative border of various flowers and leaves surrounds the page. The flowers include tulips, roses, and simple daisy-like flowers.

Name _____ Date _____

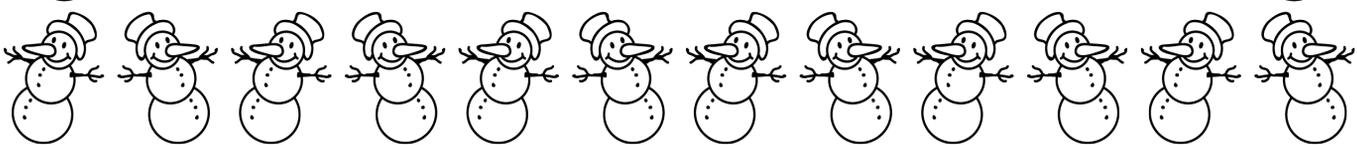
Seasonal Sensory Poem



Name _____

Date _____

Seasonal Sensory Poem





Name _____

Date _____

Seasonal Sensory Poem

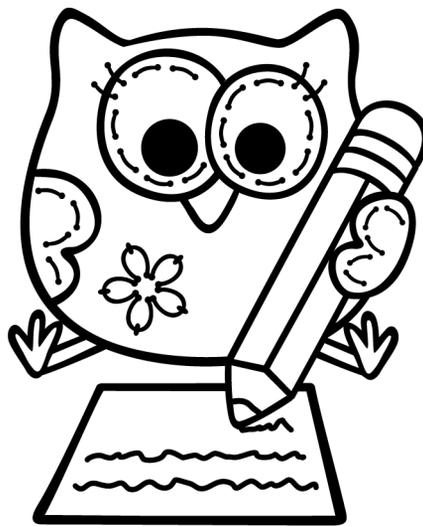




Name _____ Date _____

Seasonal Sensory Poem

A Book of Poetry



By a special poet named:

THANK YOU!

Thank you for downloading this product. If you have any questions, please email me at mrsoknows@gmail.com.

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