



Inspiration from the walk should be used when writing poems

Teachers Guide: Literacy

The stimulation of the countryside walk should inspire the school children when writing their own poem. It can be in either a three line or a five line format. The choice is yours relative to their ability.



Find a site on the walk which is stimulating for the children, preferably after an activity which engages their interest i.e. they have run for their life, there is a fantastic view or an element of the walk has engaged their interest and imagination. This activity can also take place towards the end of the walk.

Present the children with the A4 sheet of paper called '*My Walk in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*'. Ask them to fold it along the fold lines. It then should take on the shape of a booklet. Ask them to write their name on the front and at a later stage they can illustrate it.

How to write a five line poem using four key words

First word - Feeling

Ask the children to write down a word which describes how they felt during their walk.

Second word - Seeing

Ask the children to write down a word which describes something the children saw in the countryside and was interesting to them such as the tractor was ploughing the stubble fields or lambs were gambolling around the fields.

Third word - Hearing

Ask the children to write down a word which describes a sound the children heard in their walk in the countryside such as the howling wind or the bleating of lambs.

Fourth word - Smelling

Ask the children to write down a word which describes something they smelled in the countryside such as the cattle or the wild flowers.

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Poems can be read out loud to other members of the group

Once they have written down their four words, ask them to put the four words into four descriptive sentences describing how they felt, what they saw such as dramatic cliffs or huge trees laden with autumn coloured leaves, what they heard such as the howling wind and finally what they could smell. When they have written their sentences ask them to repeat the first sentence at the end. Now they have their own poem of the day.



Sample poem

*'I feel happy in the countryside
I see green fields and swaying trees
I hear birds singing free
The cut grass smells sweet
I feel happy in the countryside'*

Once all of the children have finished, they can get into small groups and read their poems out to the other members of their group. When the exercise has been finished they can take their poems back to the classroom and illustrate the booklet with a scene from the walk, a photograph or an item they saw on the walk.

For the less able pupils, this method can be used to write a three line poem, but ask them to think of two words, one which describes how they felt during their walk and one which describes something they saw which they found interesting, beautiful or stimulating and write them down. They will then have a three line poem. Continue with the same method as the five line poem asking them to read out their poem for the rest of the group to hear.