

KS2 Poetry Lesson Plan

Imagery Poems: Painting Pictures with Words

Year Group: KS2 (Years 3–6)

Time: 60 minutes

Focus: Imagery, sensory language, vocabulary choice

Curriculum Links: English – Writing (composition), Vocabulary, Spoken Language

Learning Objective

To create a poem that uses imagery and sensory language to create clear pictures in the reader's mind.

Success Criteria:

- I can describe what something looks, sounds, smells or feels like.
- I can choose words carefully for effect.
- I can improve my poem by changing words or lines.
- I can read my poem aloud clearly.

Starter Activity: The Five Senses Warm-Up (10 minutes)

Introduce pupils to the idea that poets help readers experience a moment. Ask pupils to brainstorm ideas for a 'Winter Playground' using the five senses: sight, sound, smell, touch and taste. Model one or two strong examples and encourage specific vocabulary.

Model Poem

Playtime in the Cold

The playground crunches under my shoes,
Frozen footsteps biting the ground.
The wind tugs my coat like an angry hand,
And laughter cracks the icy air.

Metal bars sting my fingers pink,
My breath floats away in ghostly clouds.
The bell rings sharp — a silver shout,
And winter lets us go.

Shared Writing (15 minutes)

Write a dull sentence on the board (e.g. 'The playground was cold'). Work with pupils to improve the sentence using imagery and sensory language. Think aloud to model how poets make

choices about words and verbs.

Independent Task (20 minutes)

Pupils write their own imagery poem about a place of their choice. Encourage 6–10 short lines, each focusing on a different sense. Support less confident writers with word banks and sentence starters. Challenge confident writers to include figurative language and edit at least two lines.

Plenary / Performance (10 minutes)

Ask pupils to choose their strongest line and read it aloud. Encourage clear voices, pauses at line breaks and eye contact. Discuss how reading aloud helps identify lines that could be improved.

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