

KS2 Poetry Cold Write & Baseline Assessment Pack

A simple, teacher-friendly resource for assessing poetry writing without over-marking. Suitable for Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.

What Is a Poetry Cold Write?

A poetry cold write is a short, independent writing task completed before teaching begins. It shows what pupils can already do with poetry without modelling, word banks or scaffolds. Cold writes are diagnostic, not judgemental.

KS2 Poetry Cold Write Prompts

- 1. A Place I Know Well.** Write a poem about a place you know well. Show what you can see, hear or feel.
- 2. One Moment.** Write a poem about a single moment in time. Something small, ordinary or important.
- 3. Something Powerful.** Write a poem about something that feels strong or powerful to you.

Simple KS2 Poetry Baseline Assessment Rubric

Area	Emerging	Developing	Secure
Vocabulary	Simple, everyday words	Some interesting choices	Deliberate, effective choices
Imagery	Mostly tells	Some showing and detail	Clear images and sensory detail
Structure & Rhythm	Lines written like sentences	Some line breaks or repetition	Structure supports meaning
Voice	Limited personal tone	Some sense of feeling or opinion	Clear, confident voice

Cold Write → Hot Write Comparison

Use this later in the unit to show progress. Pupils do not need to rewrite everything — small improvements matter.

Cold Write (Before Teaching)	Hot Write (After Teaching)
What words did I choose?	What words did I improve?
What images did I include?	What images did I add or refine?
How does it sound when read aloud?	How did I improve rhythm or flow?
One line I'm proud of:	One improvement I'm proud of: