

National Poetry Day 2022 - 'The Environment'



Objective

To compose poems from similes and metaphors on the theme of 'The Environment'.



Equipment

- Enrich School Orienteering Map
- Orienteering Control Markers



Preparation

- Children could do this activity in pairs or small groups.
- Give each pair an Activity Sheet and pen/pencil.
- Remind children what a simile is:

A figure of speech that describes something by comparing it to something else to create a vivid image in a reader's mind. Similes often use the word 'like'. For this activity, children will create similes by using a plural, followed by 'like' e.g. "Flowers, like bright dancers swaying in the breeze."

- Explain the difference between similes and metaphors:

A metaphor creates a vivid image in a reader's mind by saying that something **is** something else. You can convert a simile to a metaphor e.g. "Bright dancers, swaying in the breeze" becomes a metaphor about flowers.

- Explain to the children how to complete the Activity Sheet.



Instructions

- The Activity Sheet includes six different 'environment words', each of which has several missing letters. (The words are 'seas', 'rivers', 'mountains', 'forests', 'deserts' and 'ice'.) Children have to discover each word by filling in the missing letters.
- The number of a control point is indicated above the missing letters in each word, together with the letter/s from the control marker (1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th) that children should use to complete the word.
- When children complete a word, they have to compose a simile about it e.g. a simile about 'seas'. They write this below the word, using the construction , like..... (e.g. Seas, like.....)
- **Poem 1**
- When children have discovered each of the six 'environment words' and composed a simile about each one, they can use their similes to create a poem, using the title 'Our World'. They write out their similes as a poem, starting each one on a new line.
- They could then compose a final line for their poem e.g. based on how they feel about their world, or with a simile that begins 'Our world is like....'
- **Poem 2**
- The teacher can also use the children's similes to create class poems, by collecting examples of the children's similes and converting them to metaphors.
- Start with a title, which is one of the 'environment words' e.g. 'Seas'.
- Remind children what a metaphor is and how you can convert similes to metaphors. Ask children to give their similes about seas.
- Write each of the similes that children give beneath the title 'Seas', but miss off the beginning two words ('Seas, like') so that they become metaphors, rather than similes.



Other information

- You can find other free resources for National Poetry Day on the websites of the Poetry Society and CLPE (Centre for Literacy in Primary Education).

