Composing a Poem



What is poetry?

Poetry has different meanings for different people. Some see it as a painting in words, a medium for self-expression, or a song that rhymes and shows beauty.

There are many techniques which can be used to write a poem.

- rhyme scheme
- imagery
- symbolism
- sound words

imagery

Imagery is the elements in a poem that spark off our senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell.

Poets use **imagery** to SHOW us things, not simply TELL us about them. Let's see how!

I smell butter.

As Mommy washed up
and the children played,
smell of warm butter filled the air.



And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

John Keats

Too many animals were talking at the same time.

The girl ran her hands
on a soft satin fabric.

She touched a satin fabric.

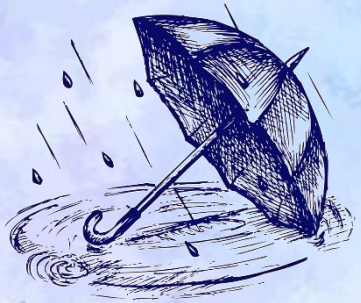
A mouse found a beautiful piece of plum cake,
The richest and sweetest that mortal could make:
'Twas heavy with citron and fragrant with spice,
And covered with sugar all sparkling as ice.

- Iona and Peter Opie



A mouse ate a plum cake.

It's raining.



THE RAIN is raining all around,
It falls on field and tree,
It rains on the umbrellas here,
And on the ships at sea.

R L Stevenson

symbolism

Symbolism gives poetry a deeper meaning which simple factual expressions cannot.

Poets use **symbolism** to take readers on an inner journey, beyond the limits of what we see and touch.

Types of Symbolism

Simile

compares one object with another by using the term ‘like’ or ‘as’

Harlem by Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore— And then run?

Personification

applies human characteristics to inanimate objects

Hope by Emily Dickinson

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune–without the words,
And never stops at all

Metaphor

compares two dissimilar objects without using the term ‘like’ or ‘as’

Daffodils by William Wordsworth

When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Look at the pictures carefully. Observe the colours and textures.

Then, write a short poem about any of the two pictures.



