



## Section 1

# Using good examples



### Poetry features

#### Subject

- Themes.
- The natural world.
- Objects in the made world.
- Personal feelings.
- Familiar situations.
- Personal and common experiences.
- Imaginary worlds.
- Senses.

#### Structure

- Pattern.
- Shape.
- Forms, such as verses, limericks, couplets and acrostic.

#### Rhyme

- Rhyming words and sounds.
- Alliteration.
- Tongue twisters.
- Nonsense words and sounds.
- Repetition.

#### Language

- Description.
- Humour.
- Onomatopoeia.
- Use of textual devices such as punctuation, shape and size of lettering.

### Using poetry

Poetry provides a link between the spoken and written word, and between the worlds of reality and imagination. Many Key Stage 1 children are already acquainted with poems through nursery and action rhymes. They enjoy hearing them, saying them and reading them over and over again. Often these well loved verses have led children into the experience of reading and writing. Poems are wonderful for shared and individual reading, providing an accessible introduction to humour in writing and to the possibilities for exploring the imagination. Through shared reading of poetry and the extracts on photocopiable pages 10-13, children can be introduced to key features of the genre.

Draw attention to the sounds of rhymes as you read aloud. Try a 'rhyme challenge' – making up first lines of couplets in the style of 'Catch a Little Rhyme' (Extract 2) and asking the children to provide the second rhyming line. For example: 'I threw it into the sky' (rhymes could be 'fly', 'try', 'cry'); 'I sailed it on the sea' ('free', 'bee', 'me'). This game will highlight the way rhyme works and show how the second line of a couplet continues the sense of the first.

When looking for subjects for poems, ask the children to create rhymes about objects around them, themselves or their friends. Remember that poetry can be as much about wordplay and enjoyment of language, as form and content.

### Poetry and the Primary Framework

The Literacy Framework provides detailed guidance for teaching and learning about poetry at Key Stage 1. In Year 1, the Poetry units focus on: 'Using the senses', 'Pattern and rhyme' and 'Poems on a theme'; in Year 2, the Poetry units focus on: 'Patterns on the page', 'Really looking' and 'Silly stuff'. Children should have access to a wide range of poems and be encouraged to write poems of their own, as enjoying and exploring poetry is a fundamental aspect of children's literacy development. The activities in this book address objectives across the Literacy Framework with greater emphasis on Strands 7-10 ('Understanding and interpreting texts', 'Engaging with and responding to texts', 'Creating and shaping texts', 'Text structure and organisation').