



Section 2

Developing writing

The following activities offer a selection of poetic devices for children to explore the key elements of language and structure and to practise creating and writing. Exploring form and language gives children the opportunity to personally express strong and diverse emotions, so beware of reducing it to a mechanistic and skills-based process while ensuring the technical aspects are understood. The last few activities in this section help children to appreciate the affective dimension of poetry while offering them free choice of form.

Different poetic forms

Children are given opportunities to try writing different styles of poems (cinquains, haikus, tankas, concrete poems). They will analyse what these poems look like and try to write using the tight structure, individual requirements and characteristics of different poetic forms.

Use of figurative devices

- Onomatopoeia, alliteration, assonance, metaphor, simile and personification.
- Pattern, rhyme and rhythm.
- Repetition, figurative language and punctuation.
- Effectively expressed feelings.

By using these building blocks of poetry and by understanding the differences between poetry and other genres, the children will have the opportunity to express feelings in poetic form.

How to use and develop the activities

Detailed teachers' notes give guidance on delivery, including how to support each activity using the photocopiable sheets at the end of the section and the materials on the CD-ROM. The activities are flexible and can easily be adapted.

Here are some ideas for developing writers' knowledge of language rhythms and voices of poetry:

- Provide opportunities to read poems aloud.
- Set up a poets' corner with a focus on a particular poet, anthology, poetic form or poem. Include the poster from Section 1.
- Display children's poems on a noticeboard and invite comments.
- Develop poetry portfolios in which children keep their draft poems, exercises, jottings and ideas.
- Make glossaries of poetic terminology.



Activity breakdown

Different poetic forms

- Snap! (page 20)
- My favourite meal (page 20)
- Building poems (page 21)

Figurative devices

- Jigsaws (page 21)
- Concrete poetry (page 22)
- Turn a haiku into a tanka (page 22)
- Digging for meaning (page 23)
- Kennings (page 23)

Expressing feelings

- Angry feelings (page 24)
- A gift of feelings (page 24)