

GRAND PISTACHIO PRESENTS



Blown Away by Poetry

*** Warning: spontaneous rhyming may occur!

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WELCOME FROM RACHEL & LIZ

Author and Poet Jacqueline Woodson writes, “... poetry is a party everyone is invited to. I think many people believe and want others to believe that poetry is for the precious, entitled, educated few. And that’s just not true.” With Wendy Windstorm and Grumpy Harry we are able to create a poetic party on stage, celebrating how poetry connects us more deeply to each other and the world. Beyond celebrating poetic concepts and existing poets, we also wanted to encourage audiences to actively participate in our poetry party by becoming poets themselves.

Towards the end of the story, Wendy Windstorm discovers she too can be a poet, and actually she

always was a poet, she just had to see herself as such. This is one of our favorite moments in the show because of how the young people react to Wendy’s discovery. As soon as the show ends, young audiences are eager to unleash their inner poets and fill the books of Poetsville with their own poems. They are ready to see themselves as capable of creating language that is meant to be heard and celebrated. And to us that is a major success!

When we create performances it is always our desire for the ideas, themes and energy to expand beyond the confines of the stage and theater space. This guide is our way of continuing the conversation and delving deeper into the wonders of poetry.

To the poet in all of us!

Rachel & Liz



POETRY: WHAT, WHO, WHY, HOW?

WHAT IS A POEM?

A poem is a type of writing or story that aims to make us think, feel and imagine. It's done by a poet who carefully chooses his or her words using rhythm, sound, sometimes rhyme and detailed language.

WHAT IS A POET?

A poet is a person who writes a poem. A poet is a storyteller.

WHY DO PEOPLE WRITE POEMS?

Why do people write stories? Why do people sing songs? We do these things, and write poems to connect with others, to celebrate life, to share our feelings, to explore the things we are curious about, to express our love and so much more.

HOW DO PEOPLE WRITE POEMS?

Turn the page to find a toolbox of helpful hints



THE POETS TOOLBOX

Now that we know what a poem is, you might be wondering how you write one.

Just like a carpenter has tools the he/she uses to build a house, a poet has tools to build a poem. Harry couldn't remember his poetic tools but we've got them here for you!

P.S. You don't need to use all of these tools in every poem. Try using one or two and see what you create.



POET'S TOOLBOX: RHYME

Rhyme is when you pair two words that have the same ending sounds. Like cat and bat, see and tree, bear and care... You get the idea!

In *Blown Away* The Roadrunner taught Wendy that rhyming can be easy and fun. Can you find some rhymes for these words?

Sad and _____

Sneeze and _____

Cold and _____

Weather and _____

Chill and _____

POET'S TOOLBOX: ALLITERATION

Alliteration is when words in a sentence start with the same sound.

Wendy's sneezes whipped wildly wherever she went.

A ferocious fever forced Wendy to forget.

She is sad, sick, and stuck staying secluded inside.

Name 5 words that start with the letter **M**:

Can you put those words into a sentence?



POETS TOOLBOX: DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE

Descriptive language is when you use sensory details to help the reader to paint a picture of a story or character in their mind. By sharing how something looks, sounds, tastes, feels or smells, description connects the reader to their five senses.

WHAT WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE THE SNAKE?

What words can you use to describe some of the places that Wendy visited?

What words can you use to describe how Wendy felt when she realized she blew the poetry out of Poetsville?

POET'S TOOLBOX: SIMILE

Simile is when you describe something by comparing it to something else using the words 'like' or 'as'. Snake loves simile. He compared the green jungle to the green emerald by saying "The jungle is as green as an emerald." Can you create a simile?

The ocean is a blue as _____

The snow is like _____

The Poetsville library is as empty as _____

***Bonus activity - Can you come up with your own similes?*



POET'S TOOLBOX RHYTHM

***Do you ever listen to music and find yourself wanting to dance?
That's probably because of a song's rhythm.***

Rhythm is a repeated movement or sound often used in a pattern.
But it can be used in poems, not just songs.

***Can you create a rhythm with your hands
or feet?***

***Now try adding some words to that
rhythm. Pretty cool right?***

***What does the rhythm help you notice
about the words?***



POETS TOOLBOX: MEANING

It can be challenging to decide what to write about. But our friend Anglerfish is right on point when she says you must write about something meaningful to you. Something meaningful to you is anything you feel strongly about. This may be something that you love (ex: your pet dog or your new pencil), but it may also be about something that you don't like or something you want to change (ex: a broken slide on the playground). If you need some help determining what is meaningful to you, try this exercise:

Write down 3 things that are important to you. (Ex: your cat, your lunch, your sparkly pencil, etc.)

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Now narrow down that list to one thing. It's hard, we know, but just choose the most important thing to you in this moment. Remember you can always do this activity again and you can eventually write a poem about all the things that have meaning to you! But choose just one to start with. You can do it!

1 _____



LET'S USE THE TOOLBOX TO WRITE A POEM

Writing a poem is easier than you think. Follow these easy steps and you'll be writing poetry in no time!

I am going to write about _____

Use any of the tools in the poet's toolbox. You can use rhyme, alliteration or simile to name a few.

Don't overthink and just start! We sometimes get in our way so the best thing is to stop thinking and begin writing.



ACTIVITY: SONG & POETRY

Write a poem to the tune of ***Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star***.

- 1 Clap out the rhythm of twinkle, twinkle.
- 2 Pick something you care about. For example, Lewis Carroll wrote about a bat.
- 3 See if your words can fit into the rhythm of ***Twinkle, Twinkle***

Here is an example from poet, **Lewis Carroll**.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE BAT

Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!
How I wonder what you're at!

Up above the world you fly,
Like a tea tray in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!
How I wonder what you're at!

Now, you try:



ACTIVITY: 5 SENSES!

HOW DO POETS USE THE FIVE SENSES TO WRITE A DESCRIPTIVE POEM?

What are the five senses? Sight, smell, taste, sound and touch. Often times, a poet uses one or more of the five senses to get a reader to imagine something in their mind. This is called, imagery. Let's write our own 5 senses poem about your favorite place to visit!

This place looks like _____

This place sounds like _____

This place smells like _____

This place tastes like _____

This place feels like _____



FIELDTRIP!

SIMILE OUTING

Take a trip to the schoolyard, a nearby garden or even inside your classroom.

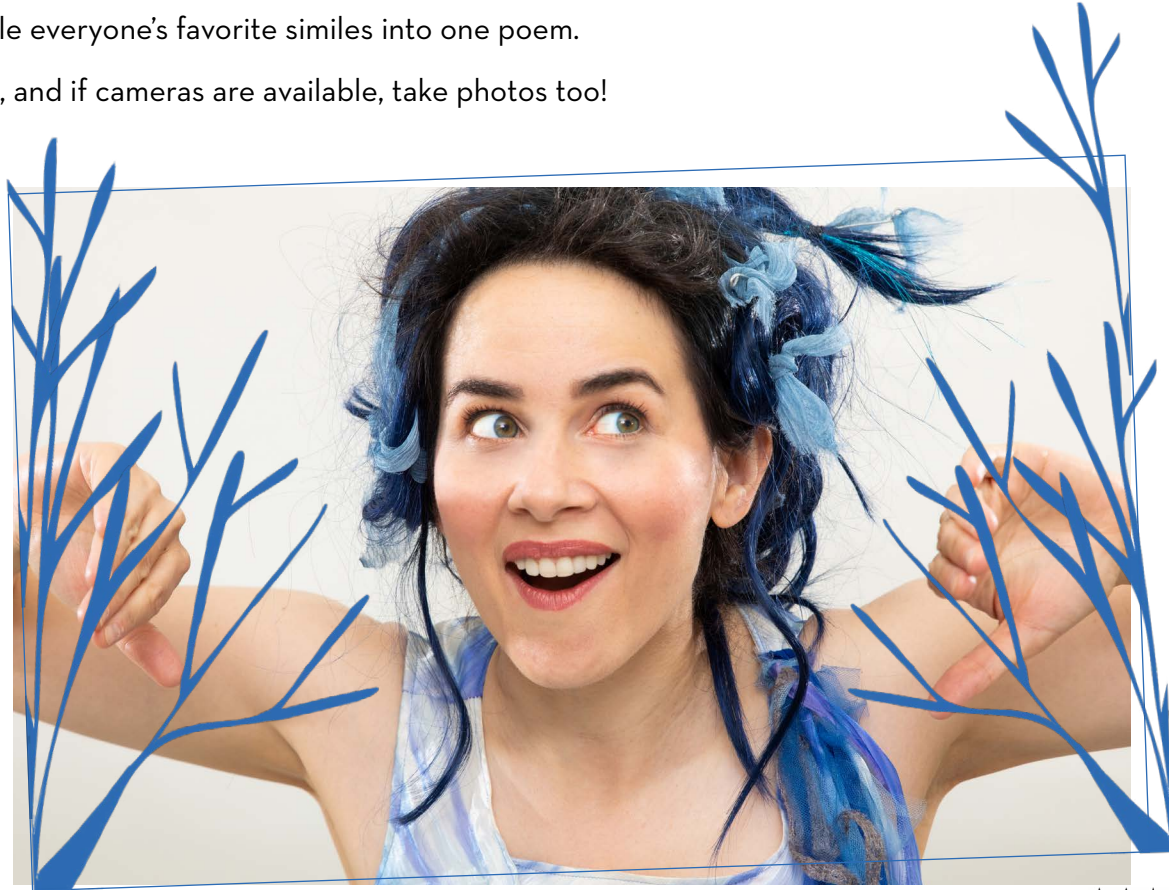
FIND 5 THINGS THAT INTEREST YOU.

Compare each of your chosen items to something else as a way to describe it. For example, this rock is as grey as a raincloud. Sound familiar? You're making a simile!

CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE SIMILE

With your teacher/friends/family, compile everyone's favorite similes into one poem.

Bonus: illustrate your similes and poems, and if cameras are available, take photos too!



POETRY GAMES!

BALL TOSS GAMES

Get a ball and have everyone stand in a circle. Choose a word and toss the ball to someone else in the circle. That person must think of a word that rhymes with the original word. Keep doing this until someone runs out of ideas. Then that person can choose a new word and the game continues.

ALLITERATION RACE

Get a ball or another small object and have everyone stand in a circle. Choose a letter of the alphabet. The person holding the ball passes the ball to the right and begins saying as many words as he/she can that begin with the letter given as everyone passes the ball around the circle as quickly as they can. See how many words the person comes up with by the time the ball comes back to them.

OBJECT IN A BOX

Put an object inside a box or a bag that the players can't see inside. Pass the bag around and have everyone describe what they feel.

*You can also play this game where you blindfold a person in a chair. All of the people who are not blindfolded describe an object without saying what the object actually is. The blindfolded person must then guess what the object is.



HARRY'S LIST OF FAVORITE POEMS

Has My Heart Gone To Sleep?

Antonio Machado

If I Were in Charge of the World

Judith Viorst

The Emperor of Ice-Cream

Wallace Stevens

Reading

Jacqueline Woodson

Mr. Mistoffelees

T. S. Elliot

An Old Silent Pond

Basho

The Crocodile

Lewis Carroll

“Do Not Be Afraid Of No”

Gwendolyn Brooks

Seashell

Federico Garcia Lorca

The Swing

Robert Louis Stevenson

From The Bed Book

Sylvia Plath

Dream Variations

Langston Hughes

I’m Nobody, Who Are You?

Emily Dickinson

Life Doesn’t Frighten Me

Maya Angelou

Whatif

Shel Silverstein

Maggie and Millie and molly and may

E.E. Cummings

Mystery

Naomi Shibab Nye





★★★★ Education Guide created by **Carrie Ellman-Larsen** ★★★★★

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