

Activity 3: Poetic pets and places

Objective

To independently choose what to write about, plan and follow it through. (Year 1 Strand 9)

What to do

This activity stimulates children's imaginations prior to writing a fantasy poem.

- Read aloud 'On Holiday with Grandma' by Robin Mellor, or another suitable poem that does not rhyme.
- Talk about how poems can still be effective when they have no regular rhyming structure.
- Ask why this poem is funny and discuss the unexpected things that Grandma does. Do the children ever get into mischief? Perhaps they have a pet that is prone to pranks?
- Display an enlarged version of photocopiable page 27 'Poetic pets and places' and read it together. Discuss unexpected things that pets might do in the places illustrated. Give examples of verbs and descriptive words to reinforce an understanding of instructions.
- Provide each child with the photocopiable sheet to complete.
- Bring the class together to share their poems.

Activity 4: Shaping a robot poem

Objective

To select from different presentational features to suit particular writing purposes on paper and on screen. (Year 2 Strand 9)

What to do

This activity encourages children to explore the effectiveness of creating visual shapes with words.

- Display the image of the skyscraper from the CD-ROM and discuss the shape of the building. Together think of rhyming words related to a skyscraper, for example, 'high', 'sky', 'tall', 'wall', 'busy' and 'dizzy'. Write them in the centre of the board, as a list, to create a tall thin skyscraper-shaped poem.
- Open 'A Den For All Seasons' from the CD-ROM. Discuss how the poem is visually presented, for example, where the verses are positioned. Talk about whether this layout enhances the overall effectiveness of the poem.
- Open 'Shaping a robot poem' from the CD-ROM and roll over the robot to reveal rhyming phrases related to body parts.
- Arrange the children in groups and supply each group with a copy of photocopiable page 28 'Shaping a robot poem'. Read the instructions and ask them to complete this plan and then write a robot poem in their small groups. They will need to choose a scribe and someone to read the finished poem to the class.
- Bring the class together to discuss the effectiveness of their poems.

What's on the CD-ROM

Media resources

- Display and discuss the 'Skyscraper' image.

A Den For All Seasons

- Discuss the presentation of the poem.

Shaping a robot poem

- Roll over the robot to reveal rhyming phrases.