Name _____ Date _____

Read like a poet

Find out how a poem is built, then borrow its best ideas.

1 Learn



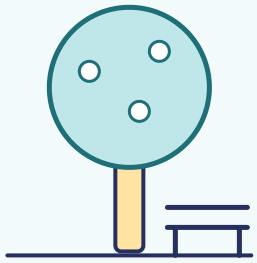
Poets learn from other poems. Spot the **title**, **lines**, **verses** and any **repeating line**, and collect great words.

The Tree in Our Street ← title

In spring, the tree in our street
wears a coat of pink blossom. ← a line
The tree in our street is waiting.

In summer, it spreads a green umbrella
over the bench where Grandad snoozes.
The tree in our street is listening.

In winter, its bare fingers
scratch at the frosty sky.
The tree in our street is dreaming.



Verse: a group of lines (the teal bars).
Repeating line: comes back again and again (yellow).

Worked example: reading it like a poet

1. Read it aloud twice. Count: **3 verses**, **9 lines**.
2. Spot the pattern: a **season** starts each verse; the **repeating line** ends it.
3. Collect best words (**snoozes**, **bare fingers**). Borrow the **pattern**, not the poem: *"The cat on our wall is…"*

Flip's tip: a poem **doesn't have to rhyme**. Its pattern, line breaks and chosen words make it a poem.

Warm up: Verses: ☐ Lines: ☐ Does it rhyme? yes / no

Grown-ups: read the poem aloud together, and ask "What do you notice?" before naming any parts.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Poem detectives

You need: two short poems: from a book, a card, a rhyme you know by heart, or this sheet.

1. Read the first poem aloud, taking turns line by line.
2. Count the verses and the lines. Is there a repeating line? Does it rhyme?
3. Each choose **one word you'd love to borrow** and say why you like it.
4. Do the same with the second poem. How are the two poems different?

Poem title	Verses	Lines	Rhymes?	Word to borrow

Grown-ups: point and say "this group is a verse; each row is a line". Borrowing one word is fine.

3 Practise

A. Draw a line to match each word to what it means.

title	one row of words in a poem
line	a group of lines, with a gap before the next group
verse	the poem's name, at the top
repeating line	a line that comes back more than once

B. Read this poem aloud, then answer the questions.

Rain

Rain on the window, tap, tap, tap,
rain on the puddle, slap, slap, slap,
rain on my wellies, splish, splash, splosh,
rain on the washing… oh, my gosh!

1. Lines? ____ Verses? ____
2. Which words rhyme?

_____

3. What words start every line?

_____

4. Ring a sound word in the poem.

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C. True or false? Tick one box for each.

Sentence	True	False
A poem must rhyme.		
A verse is a group of lines.		
Poets can borrow a pattern from another poem.		
Copying a whole poem and adding your name makes it yours.		

D. Borrow the pattern of **The Tree in Our Street**. Choose something near you, like the cat on our wall or the clock in our hall, and write one verse.

In _____ , the _____ in our _____

_____

The _____ in our _____ is _____ .

Challenge

Leo says, "The Tree in Our Street isn't a real poem, because it doesn't rhyme." Is he right? What makes it a poem?

_____

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ find the title, lines, verses and a repeating line in a poem
- ☐ explain that a poem doesn't have to rhyme
- ☐ borrow a pattern or a word without copying the whole poem