

Lesson Blueprints: Poetry Lessons

Lesson Title: Couplet Poem

Grade Level: Elementary School

Project and Purpose

Students write a couplet poem on a designated theme or topic.

Essential Question

How do we express ideas in a two line poem?

Introduction

Explain to students that they will write a couplet poem which consists of two lines that rhyme. The couplet must be a complete thought or tell a full story and the lines must have the same or similar number of syllables and have the same rhythm.

Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Show an example. You may write your own or use the poem provided below:
My favorite thing to do is play
This is how I spend my day
2. Discuss the example and review how couplet poems have very few rules:
 - They consist of only two lines,
 - the two lines rhyme,
 - and they have the same or similar syllables and rhythm.

Talk about the characteristics of the example poem you read aloud so your students can see how the couplet followed the rules.

Guided Exploration (We do)

1. Introduce poem topic. Depending on your lesson topic, you may have a very specific theme or a broad central idea that you want your students to think about when writing their couplets.
2. Brainstorm ideas as a group and ask students to find a rhyming partner to help check their end rhymes in their poems.

Independent Practice (You do)

1. Work period. Give students some time to work individually on their poems. Have them write a draft in their notebook or on a piece of paper. When they are finished, give them a piece of construction paper or card stock to write their final copy.
2. Have your students draw a picture on their final copy to accompany their poem.
3. Prepare to present poems. You may choose to have your students share their poems with a partner, small group, or the whole class. Display their final copies around the room or outside the classroom when they are finished.

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Lesson Title: Couplet Poem Rubric

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Student _____

Project Title _____

Rubric	4	3	2	1	Score
Title of Poem	The poem has a creative title related to the subject/ theme.	The poem has a title related to the subject/ theme.	The poem has a title.	There is no title.	
Follow Poetry Directions	The poem is written according to guidelines for the type of poem assigned.	The poem is mostly written according to guidelines for the type of poem assigned.	The poem missed a few of the guidelines for the type of poem assigned.	The poem does not follow the guidelines for the type of poem assigned.	
Conventions	No grammar, capitalization, punctuation, or spelling errors.	1-3 grammar, capitalization, punctuation, or spelling errors.	4-5 grammar, capitalization, punctuation, or spelling errors.	More than 5 grammar, capitalization, punctuation, or spelling errors.	
Neatness	Presentation is neat and written legibly.	Mostly neat with some eraser marks.	Somewhat neat with many eraser marks.	The poem is messy and difficult to read due to erasures, cross-outs, and other markings.	
Creativity	Has very creative ideas and/or illustrations.	Has many creative ideas and/or illustrations.	Has some creative ideas and/or illustrations.	Shows little or no attempt at creativity.	
					Total