

Peppermint and Popcorn Days

Lesson planning tables

Poetry can be used to teach children about language devices that they can apply in their own writing across text types (e.g. creating a catchy alliterative title for an information report; incorporating onomatopoeia in a procedure for a game; experimenting with personification in narrative writing). Poetry can also be an engaging way to complement lessons on word classes to improve sentence-level writing skills, and an excellent tool to work on reading fluency. It's also lots of fun for everyone!

To support lesson planning, the tables in this document will help teachers identify poems in *Peppermint and Popcorn Days* appropriate for different year groups, along with the themes, language devices and interesting word classes in each poem.

Use the:

- ▶ **'Overview'** section to identify poems by:
 - feature of interest (Language Devices table)
 - year group (Poems by Age table).
- ▶ **'Language Devices by Poem'** section to explore the features present in individual poems in more detail.

For example:

You want to teach your **Year 1** class about **alliteration**.

- Use the Language Devices and Poems by Age tables to select *Nelly the Pelly*.
- Check the *Nelly the Pelly* table in the Language Devices by Poem section to note alliterative words (and other features of the poem that can be explored).
- Read and discuss the poem.
- Brainstorm other alliterative phrases together.
- In your next writing lesson, set a goal for students to use alliteration for a report title (e.g. Fantastic Fish).

You want to teach your **Year 6** class about **personification**.

- Use the Language Devices and Poems by Age tables to select *On the Shore*.
- Check the *On the Shore* table in the Language Devices by Poem section and note the verbs used to personify the waves.
- Read and discuss the poem.
- Ask students to write sentences to personify the sea using verbs from the poem or other action verbs.
- Share and discuss how verb choice impacts sentences.
- In your next writing lesson, set a goal for students to use personification in a story to introduce the setting (e.g. The wind knocked on the window).

Teachers will satisfy a range of ACARA curriculum outcomes by engaging in poetry discussions with their students and supporting them to respond by performing, drawing or experimenting with poetic devices in their own writing. The accompanying **Peppermint and Popcorn Days curriculum alignment** document lists all relevant ACARA English outcomes for each year level along with some ideas for classroom activities using the book.

Overview

Language Devices

Device	Poems
rhyme	Most poems present an opportunity to explore rhyme. Non-rhyming poems: <i>Sorts of Sand, Bathtub, Jacarandy Snow, Popcorn Days</i>
rhythm	Rhythm can be explored in any poem. A selection of poems with contrasting rhythms are: <i>Elektra the Emu, Dawning Day, On the Shore, Sorts of Sand, Jacarandy Snow, Forest Song, A Whiff of Jam, The Hole That Jack Dug</i>
repetition	<i>Nelly the Pelly, On the Shore, Sorts of Sand, Jacarandy Snow, Forest Song, Alexander, Bubble, Inside My Box, In a Jam, A Whiff of Jam, The Hole That Jack Dug, Far and Wide, Enelmenel, Dragonfruit, Popcorn Days</i>
alliteration	<i>Nelly the Pelly, The Beetle and the Butterfly, Dawning Day, On the Shore, Sorts of Sand, Bathtub, Forest Song, Hush Brush, Cloud Dreaming, Alexander, Key to Kingdom, Bubble, Inside My Box, The Hole That Jack Dug, Enelmenel, Dragonfruit, Popcorn Days</i>
assonance	<i>On the Shore, Sorts of Sand, Bathtub, Jacarandy Snow, Forest Song, Hush Brush, Cloud Dreaming, Alexander, Key to a Kingdom, Bubble, Inside My Box, In a Jam, A Whiff of Jam, The Hole That Jack Dug</i>
onomatopoeia	<i>On the Shore, Sorts of Sand, Forest Song, Hush Brush, In a Jam, Popcorn Days</i>
metaphor	<i>Bathtub, Enelmenel</i>
simile	<i>Bubble</i>
personification	<i>The Beetle and the Butterfly, On the Shore, Dragonfruit</i>
anthropomorphism	<i>Peppermint, Nelly the Pelly, Elektra the Emu</i>
wordplay	<i>Peppermint, Nelly the Pelly, Sorts of Sand, Jacarandy Snow, Cloud Dreaming, The Hole That Jack Dug, Far and Wide, Enelmenel, Popcorn Days</i>
shape/text placement	<i>Dawning Day, On the Shore, Bathtub, Jacarandy Snow, Forest Song, Hush Brush, Cloud Dreaming, A Whiff of Jam, Popcorn Days</i>

Poems by Age

Younger children (Years F–2)		Older children (Years 3–6)	
<i>Peppermint</i>	<i>Bubble</i>	<i>Dawning Day</i>	<i>The Beetle and the Butterfly</i>
<i>Nelly the Pelly</i>	<i>Inside My Box</i>	<i>On the Shore</i>	<i>Alexander</i>
<i>Elektra the Emu</i>	<i>In a Jam</i>	<i>Bathtub</i>	<i>Key to a Kingdom</i>
<i>On the Shore</i>	<i>Whiff of Jam</i>	<i>Jacarandy Snow</i>	<i>The Hole That Jack Dug</i>
<i>Sorts of Sand</i>	<i>Enelmenel</i>	<i>Forest Song</i>	<i>Far and Wide</i>
<i>Cloud Dreaming</i>	<i>Popcorn Days</i>	<i>Hush Brush</i>	<i>Dragonfruit</i>

Note that teachers should not feel limited by this list; with well-adapted activities, a poem for younger children can be explored in a more sophisticated way with older children and vice versa.

Language Devices by Poem

Peppermint (Themes: Australian animals, Daintree rainforest)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: quatrain (ABCB)
anthropomorphism	stick insect inviting Irene for tea
adjective wordplay (creative use of suffix -y)	'it's rather tricky... when a person looks so sticky' 'leafy tea'

Nelly the Pelly (Themes: Australian animals)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	'Nelly-Pelly-belly-umbrelly-welly', 'poured-bored'
repetition	'belly', 'beak', 'umbrelly' repeated
alliteration	big beak, big belly; drizzled, dribbled; poured, Pelly
anthropomorphism	pelican dressed in clothes, using an umbrella
noun wordplay	umbrelly

The Beetle and the Butterfly (Themes: garden creatures)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: couplet (AA)
alliteration	beetle, butterfly; snow-melt streams; rosy, ripe
personification	beetle, butterfly, bees, stream, berries, mountains, trees 'conversing' with each other using speaking verbs: utter, ask, inquire, query
question words	why, wherefore, when, how, what

Elektra the Emu (Themes: Australian animals)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: couplet (AA)
internal rhymes	'ruffled-truffles', 'beat-feet'
rhythm	'weak-weak-strong' syllables in quick succession: 'hear the beat / of their feet / on the ground / as they pass '
anthropomorphism	emus having a tea party

Dawning Day (Themes: seaside, turtles)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: quatrain (ABCB)
internal rhymes	'flips-slips'
rhythm	slow; short lines of only 4 syllables, reinforced by spacing on page
alliteration	green-glass; silent splash; dawning day
shape/text placement	words floating in the air and sea

On the Shore (Themes: seaside, swimming)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: quatrain (ABCB)
internal rhymes	'twirling-whirling'
rhythm	fast and urgent; reinforced by placement on page, repetition and choice of words evoking speed
repetition	'come in, come in', 'jump in, jump in', 'come swim, come swim'
alliteration	runs, rushing, races; frothing, foaming; sea, say, swim, skips
assonance	runs, rushing, tumbling, tugs, come, jump; swim, skip, chitter
onomatopoeia	chitter-chatter
personification	sea given human-like qualities using action verbs (e.g. runs, races)
movement verbs (energetic, quick)	run, rush, tumble, race, tug, twirl, whirl, froth, foam, swirl, jump, skip
shape/text placement	words curving around waves

Sorts of Sand (Themes: seaside, sand play)

Language device	Examples
internal rhymes	'burns-squirm-firm', 'reach-beach'
rhythm	lists of primarily monosyllabic words to create constant strong beat (e.g. sink-right-in-till-your-feet-squelch-and-squirm)
repetition	'sand' at the end of every line
alliteration	quick, can, 'cause; soft, sand, sink, squelch, squirm; crunch, crust, cracks; sand, splatter; dark, dirt
assonance	sink, in, till; jump, crunch; firm, dirt; sand, splatter
onomatopoeia	ooh-ooh-aah, squelch, squeak, crunch, splatter
adjective wordplay	creating compound descriptions from actions (e.g. remember-the-beach sand)

Bathtub (Themes: daily life)

Language device	Examples
alliteration	soporific, steam, sometimes, slowly, stalactites; form, fingers, fall
assonance	soporific, drips, fingers
metaphor	I am a rock
shape/text placement	'slowly fall' slowly falling down the page

Jacarandy Snow (Themes: seasons)

Language device	Examples
rhythm	Quick initial rhythm shifting to slower pace, reinforced by repetition and word choice
repetition	3 prepositional phrases (e.g. up the road); everywhere, everywhere; lilac-clouded, lilac-sprinkled
assonance	sings, sprinkled, drifts; softly, wafting
adjective wordplay (creative use of suffix -y)	jacarandy
shape/text placement	'up the road', 'over the hill', 'down the other side'

Forest Song (Themes: Australian animals, Daintree rainforest)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	e.g. 'heat-beat', 'creep-sweep-seep', 'song-long'
rhythm	slow; lullaby/song-like; reinforced by repetition and word choice evoking a measured pace
repetition	seep, seep, seep; all of this ... all of this ... all of this ...; green on green on green on green
alliteration	footsteps, fan, fronds; drops, drip; spit, splatter, split, seep, song, sung
assonance	fronds, drop, song, long; heat/beat, sweep/creep/seep, dream, green
onomatopoeia	beat, drip, pit, patter, spit, splatter
word choice (slow)	<i>verbs</i> : creep, sweep, seep, drip; <i>adjectives</i> : low, long; <i>noun</i> : dream
shape/text placement	words dripping down the page; green text

Hush Brush (Themes: seasons)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	'brush-crush', 'flutter-gutter', 'ruffle-shuffle'
internal rhymes	'lift-drift', 'hush-brush', 'whisk-brisk', 'muffle-ruffle'
alliteration	brush, brisk, brittle; lift, loft; drift, drop; flitter, flutter; russet, ruffle; shoe, shuffle
assonance	rustle, crush; brisk, brittle, crisp, lift, wind, drift, flitter; loft, drop; russet, gutter, muffle
onomatopoeia	hush, brush, rustle, drop, flutter, ruffle, shuffle
shape/text placement	words floating like leaves in the air

Cloud Dreaming (Themes: imagination)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: quatrain (ABCB)
alliteration	wisped, wiggle; skid-scudding, sky; dreamily, drowsily, dragon
assonance	rabbit, Pinky; wisped, wiggle, till, skid
adjective wordplay (creative use of suffix -ish)	cloudish
shape/text placement	'dreamily, drowsily' stretched out

Alexander (Themes: imagination, *Midsummer Night's Dream*)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: couplet (AA)
repetition	Alexander, Alexander; where do you meander, how do you meander, why do you meander; I play, I pause, I ponder; that is where I wander, that is how I wander; in a glade ... in a golden glade ...
alliteration	play, pause, ponder; summer, slumber; golden, glade; sunlit, splendour
assonance	seek, ethereal; elm, slender; twixt, primrose; woodbine, thyme; summer, slumber, sunlit, honeyed

Key to a Kingdom (Themes: imagination, seaside)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: quatrain (ABCB)
alliteration	sandy, stony, sweeps; rusty, ruddy, rock
assonance	elven, dens; rusty, ruddy
oxymoron	liquid rock

Bubble (Themes: daily life, joy)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	'bright-light-sprite-flight-might'
repetition	it might, it might
alliteration	flimsy, filmy, flight; soapy, sprite
assonance	flimsy, filmy, wings
simile	a bubble could look like 'a laugh with wings'

Inside My Box (Themes: imagination, playtime)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: quatrain (ABCB)
repetition	I like to ... I like to ... I like to ... I like to ...; box, rug, warm and snug
alliteration	sail, salty; tell, tale; fight, fearful, foe; worlds, where, when, warm
assonance	quilted, live; camel, band; fearful, dream

In a Jam (Themes: pets)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: quatrain (ABCB)
repetition	he sat right down, he sat on me; I'm ... in a jam, I'm ... feeling flat, I'm ... packed in tight
assonance	swayed, say; think, sit, bit; been, feeling; hope, won't; thinks, Jim, sit
onomatopoeia	splat

A Whiff of Jam (Themes: food)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	'pink-think', 'lemon-watermelon', 'wall-small-tall-all'
internal rhymes	'whiff-sniff'
rhythm	quick, urgent; reinforced by repeating lists of colours, flavours, sizes
repetition	jam, jam, jam; jam on my ... jam in my ... jam on my ...; lick, lick; quick, quick; red jam, black jam, green jam; some, some, some
assonance	whiff, sniff, drip, rich, thick; bun, tum; lip, lick, quick; pink, pick
shape/text placement	larger letters for TEN FEET TALL

The Hole That Jack Dug (Themes: fairy tales, nursery rhymes)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	final verses: short couplets (AA)
internal rhymes	'rose-goes-nose-hose', 'stone-bone-throne-flown', 'dish-fish-wish-swish'
rhythm	beat structure based on embedded clause repetition (4 strong beats to first clause: (this / is the hole / that Jack / dug) ; increasing by 2 strong beats with each clause: (this / is the rose / that goes / in the hole / that Jack / dug))
repetition	This is the ... that ... (repeated embedded clauses)
alliteration	red, royal; tickle-toed; sensitive, splitting
assonance	opulent, soppy; wet, mess
onomatopoeia	swish, wail
wordplay	reimagining a well-known nursery rhyme 'This is the House that Jack Built'

Far and Wide (Themes: wordplay – irregular plurals)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: quatrain (ABCB)
repetition	I've read far and I've read wide; thing that is true; if you have ... and you add ...; right as right
plurals wordplay	mouse-mice; house-hice; goose-geese; moose-meese

Enlmenel (Themes: imagination, alphabet)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: quatrain (ABCB)
repetition	Enlmenel, Enlmenel, Enlmenel Pea!; heigh-ho, heigh-ho; that's me, that's me; he's still there, yes he's still there
alliteration	grey, green; kennel, cosy; funny, furry, feet; silly, song
metaphor	alphabet letters as towns; letter sequence L-M-N-O as a gnome
wordplay	Pea – P; Kay – K; Oh – O

Dragonfruit (Themes: food, markets)

Language device	Examples
rhyme	rhyme scheme: quatrain (ABCB)
internal rhymes	'vermilion-reptilian'
repetition	first and last verses repeat with slight variations
alliteration	frightening, folk, fire-breathing, flesh; scaly, skin; firm, fierce; deceptive, deep; doubt, dragon
personification	fruit as a beast; with scaly skin and a sweet heart
adjectives (rich description)	curious, fire-breathing, scaly, vermilion, cold, reptilian, firm, fierce, deceptive, perceptive, sweetest

Popcorn Days (Themes: feelings, around the world)

Language device	Examples
internal rhymes	'whizzing-fizzing', 'hopping-bopping', 'dipping-flipping'
repetition	Some days are ... some days are ... some days are ...; around and around
alliteration	crystalline-clear, cartwheeling, clarion-call
onomatopoeia	stomp, whizzing, fizzing
adjective wordplay	creating compound descriptions from actions (e.g. stomp-down-the-hall days)
shape/text placement	movement verbs in movement on last page