



Section 2

Developing writing



Activities breakdown

Word choice

- Gathering words (page 20)
- Generating ideas (page 20)
- Fridge words (page 23)
- Alliteration challenge (page 23)

Subject matter

- Gathering words (page 20)
- Generating ideas (page 20)
- Poem-scape (page 24)
- Image maker (page 24)

Creative use of language

- Shape it (page 21)
- Beat shapes (page 21)
- Line length (page 22)
- Fridge words (page 23)

Crafting of lines

- Shape it (page 21)
- Beat shapes (page 21)
- Line length (page 22)
- Metre (page 22)
- Alliteration challenge (page 23)

Imagery

- Shape it (page 21)
- Fridge words (page 23)
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- Image maker (page 24)

In this section, skills of composition and language use are honed, leading into the actual writing of poetry. There is an initial exploration of how to gather words around a subject, with the aim of finding the best words for use in a poem. Photocopiable page 33 'Poem-scape' performs a similar task, and the questions in the interactive version on the CD-ROM will enhance this.

Subject matter

It is important that children have a subject matter to write about. There are no activities specifically to deliver this – you need to promote subjects from the children's own experiences and the ideas they bring. Throughout this section, however, ideas are suggested for using the images in the 'Media resources' section of the CD-ROM, which can be used to stimulate ideas across all the activities. For example, activities on metre need a starting point, so why not use the 'Fire' image to spark this off?

Creative use of language

Having gathered words, children then need the freedom poetry allows to use these in creative ways. The 'Fridge words' activity (on page 23) serves both as an activity in itself but also models a way of working with words, shuffling them around to create interesting wording. Emphasise throughout the activities that children can play with the language and have fun with it.

Crafting of lines

Work on syllables and metre can get very complex. The activities here present a simple way of exploring this area using beats in lines. We shape them, beat them out and use metre. There is also an emphasis on how things are to be said, which will be developed further in Section 3 when we look at performance of poetry. This section also explores alliteration, emphasising the importance of listening to how a line sounds.

Imagery

Part of the construction of poetry involves the devising of imagery. Keep children focused on the purpose of this device as imagery has a significant impact. The activities here use compact and focused texts that are well crafted and redrafted to make for lively and interesting words.