

POETREE

Age 9-12

Topic:

Studying a tree with all the senses to inspire creative poems

Key terms:

Creative writing, poetry, vocabulary, senses

Estimated time:

45-60 minutes

Methods:

experiential learning

What we need:

- *An area with trees*
- *Chalk, paper, pencils and string*
- *Mats to sit/lie on*


Activity description:

First hand experiences of inspiring matter support more **creative writing** and this is now supported by research. It makes sense that a child's **vocabulary** is enriched if they have the sensory stimulation of the real features to which they can respond.

1. Groups of four children choose a tree and use their senses to experience the tree as a whole.

2. Collect a leaf from their tree and think about its different aspects such as shape, texture, smell and the sound it might make.





3. Chalk the shape of their leaf onto the tarmac, and write inside the leaf outline the words for each of the aspects of the leaf to make a simple calligram poem.

4. Return to the tree and have each child in the group assume a different position:

- Lying on the ground looking at the branches
- Kneeling with your nose to the bark
- Sitting with your back to the trunk
- Standing looking at the canopy

5. Each member of the group independently creates a line of poetry inspired by their tree. They can write their line on a piece of paper and hang it from the tree or do a collective, spontaneous performance to witness the organic poem formed from their four individual lines.

Curriculum Links:

- Literacy - creative writing, speaking and listening
- Science - seasonality, parts of a tree

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