

# BRAIN SWAP

POETRY COMPETITION FOR 7-11 YEAR-OLDS

## TODAY YOU ARE GOING TO:

- Learn how to write from a different perspective
- Take part in a group discussion
- Explore poetic techniques and types
- Write a poem for Young Writers' Brain Swap poetry competition



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Today you will be writing a poem  
inspired by a brain swap:

Your teacher may give you an idea to  
write about or ask you to choose.

Poetic techniques are writing tools that make your poem more interesting to read.

Here are our top 3 techniques:

### IMAGERY

Using description, particularly senses, to paint a picture in the reader's mind. E.g.

*The sky was pitch-black except for the bright, twinkling stars that I watched as I floated inside the space station.*

### SIMILE

Describing something like or as something else. E.g.

*I burst into a sprint, as fast as a speeding train, I crossed the finish line, World Champion!*

### ONOMATOPOEIA

A word that names a sound, but also sounds like that sound! E.g.

*Rustle! Whoosh! Rustle! I'm just a leaf, fallen in autumn, gently blowing along in the breeze...*

Here are some sentences about the Queen, can you identify whether each sentence is either a **simile**, **imagery** or **onomatopoeia**:

The Queen's guards are as brave as a lion.

The Queen's ballgown swooshed around her as she walked through the palace.

The Crown Jewels sparkled and glinted in the sunlight as Her Majesty gracefully sat down on the throne.





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Poetry types are styles that you can write in...

There are lots of poetic forms to choose from, but here are 3 we've shortlisted:

## RHYMES

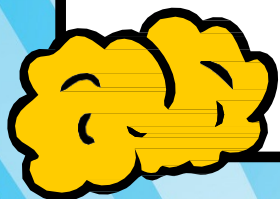
Do you know what a rhyme and a half rhyme are?

In case you didn't know, a half rhyme is a similar but not identical sound.

E.g. 'Egyptian' and 'description' rhyme

but

'Egyptian' and 'kitchen' are a half rhyme.



Can you guess if these are  
half rhymes or rhymes?

1. I'm a cute puppy  
With a soft, furry tummy
2. I'm floating in space  
It's an amazing place
3. I'm a ferocious Viking  
And my life is very exciting!
4. I'm a dinner lady  
I work lunchtimes daily
5. Hello I'm a doctor  
To relax I play soccer



## RIDDLES

Writing from someone or something else's point of view is perfect for riddle poems... a mystery guest for the reader to work out!

A good riddle poem ideally:

- Has at least 6 clues
- Uses present tense
- Uses lots of description
- Tries to trick the reader
- Has a clever title that gives away a clue
- Finishes with the question – who or what am I?





Can you guess who these riddles are about?

Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?

(A kennings poem)

Forest-skipper

Flower-picker

Cake-maker

Rule-breaker

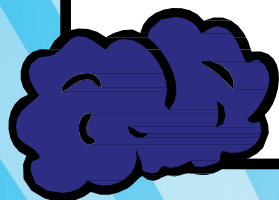
Question-asker

Wolf-unmasker

Granny-saver

Woodcutter-waver...

Who am I?



## Superhero Riddle

I wear a suit by day, a cape by night,  
I like to give bad guys a fright.  
My name is blind, but I am not,  
My enemy likes to laugh a lot.  
My partner is named after a bird,  
We'll save the day, I give you my word!

Who am I?



## ACROSTICS

By writing the name of your brain swap as the acrostic word, you can then have fun telling the reader about your person...

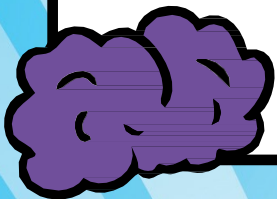
E.g.

**T** he reason I became a teacher was to make a difference to children's lives,  
**E** very day I help them become better students, I love to see them grow  
**A** nd develop, though I could live without their burps and trumps!  
**C** hatter, laughter, tears, excitement, fear - I see it all but I  
**H** ave to tell you, being a teacher is so rewarding,  
**E** very day my class surprise me...  
**"R** eally Morgan! I've told you before, don't lick the pencil sharpenings!"

**Now you are ready to get writing!**

**If you have any questions, now is the time  
to ask your teacher!**

**It's time to write your Brain Swap poem!**



We hope you enjoyed  
writing a poem for

# BRAIN SWAP



[WWW.YOUNGWRITERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.YOUNGWRITERS.CO.UK)