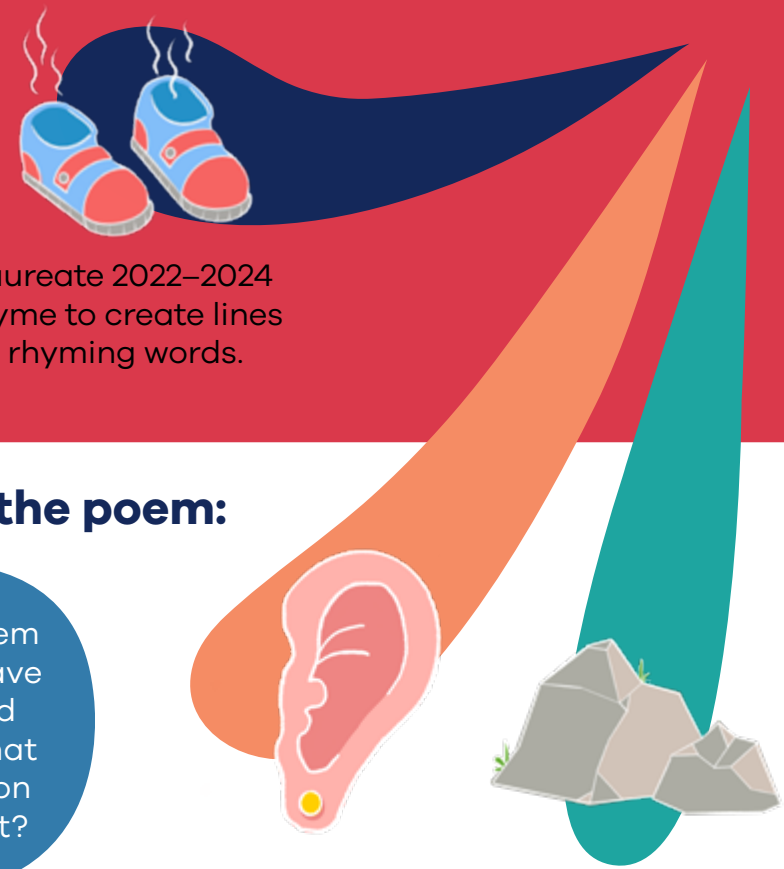


Poetry Prompts: Week 44

Rhyming words

This sheet is to accompany Poetry Prompt 44 that features Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022–2024 Joseph Coelho. This week, Joseph Coelho met MC Grammar to look at words that rhyme to create lines that could be used in a poem. Here's another poem by Joseph Coelho which includes rhyming words. See if you can spot them as you read or listen to the poem...



Read the poem:

Read the poem aloud. You might do this yourself, with a friend or someone else could read it to you:

I Spy

I spy
with my little eye.

I hear
with my little ear.

A song is sung
with my little tongue.

I tell the truth
with my little tooth.

I balance a boulder
on my little shoulder.

I conduct a band
with my little hand.

I pick up a singer
with my little finger.

There's a clothes peg
on my little leg.

I trip over a root
with my little foot.

I smell my toes
with my little nose.

I place the sea
on my little knee.

Think about the poem:

Consider the poem you just read. Have you ever played *I spy* before? What made this version of *I spy* different?

Look at the language:

- In *I spy* you look for things with your eye, but this poem was all about **doing other things with different parts of the body**. What body parts were mentioned in the poem? Circle or underline these.
- Now **look for the words that rhymed** with the body parts and circle or underline these as well. Take some time to **look at the similarities and differences** in the pairs of rhyming words. Do they have similar spelling patterns, like in 'hear' and 'ear' or different ones, like in 'eye' and 'spy'? Can you think of any other words that rhyme with these pairs of words? How are they spelled? Do all of them fully rhyme?

Perform the poem:

- Think about how you might **bring the poem to life** for an audience. The poem has a very **repetitive structure**, so you'll need to think about how to keep the audience's attention throughout. How could you use your **voice**, your **facial expressions** and your **body language** to highlight the actions involved? Will some parts be louder or quieter, faster or slower, higher or lower? How will you make sure any actions you may decide to include add to the performance, not detract from it?
- Rehearse your performance a few times until you are happy with it, then **perform it to someone else**. Was their interest held? What did they think you did well? What would they recommend if you were to perform it again?

Write your own!

- See if you can **write your own rhyming couplets** to create your own '*I Spy*' poem. What other body parts could you include? You might want to draw and label a picture of a human body or find a labelled diagram in an encyclopaedia or information text, in a book or online, to give you some inspiration.
- When you have a list of body parts think of some **action phrases including words that rhyme** with each body part, that make sense with each one. Keep looking back to the lines in the original poem to help you to remember the structure, e.g. '*I balance a boulder / on my little shoulder.*'
- If you are struggling to think of rhyming words, you can **use a rhyming dictionary** to help you. Rhyme Zone is a good online rhyming dictionary, if you don't have access to one: <https://www.rhymezone.com/>
- When you've finished, **type or write the poem out in your best handwriting**. You could also create an illustration showing one or more of the couplets in action.

Find all Poetry Prompts as well as more information about Joseph Coelho at booktrust.org.uk/childrens-laureate

Find and explore more rhyming poetry on CLPE's website.

This sequence of activities was designed in partnership with CLPE. CLPE is a UK-based children's literacy charity working with primary schools to raise the achievement of children's reading and writing by helping schools to teach literacy creatively and effectively, putting quality children's books at the heart of all learning. Find out more about their work, and access further resources and training at: clpe.org.uk.