

Poetry Starters

Anybody can write a poem. Here's one way to start.

EXAMPLE

Line 1: What word or image creates a strong feeling in you?	<i>green grass</i>
Line 2: What does it do (look, sound, taste, feel, or smell)?	<i>floats on the sea of earth</i>
Line 3: Repeat something, or make a rhyme.	<i>floats up and down with the wind</i>
Line 4: What do you mean? Make a comparison.	<i>Like a cloud rolling across the sky.</i>

Here's the poem based on the starter above:

Green grass
Floats on the sea of earth
Floats up and down with the wind
Like a cloud, rolling across the sky.

Now write your own poem using the poetry starter.

Line 1: Write a word or image that creates a strong feeling.

Line 2: Write how it looks, feels, smells, or tastes.

Line 3: Repeat something or make a rhyme.

Line 4: Use a simile or metaphor to make a comparison.

POETRY-WRITING HINTS

- Start with a strong image. Ask yourself, *What does it look, sound, taste, feel, or smell like?*
- Repeat something or make a rhyme.
- Ask yourself, *What is the meaning?* Let the last line write itself after you take a pause.
- If you get stuck, read what you have written out loud.

See the Poetry Starter on page 124.

A. Answer the questions. Choose another image from the one you used on page 70.

Line 1: What word or image creates a strong feeling in you?	
Line 2: What does it do (look, sound, taste, feel, or smell)?	
Line 3: Repeat something, or make a rhyme.	
Line 4: What do you mean? Make a comparison.	



Line 1: What word or image creates a strong feeling in you?

Line 2: What does it look, sound, taste, feel, or smell like?

Line 3: Repeat something. Make a rhyme.

Line 4: Make a rhyme.

Line 5: Have your speaker say something.

“ _____ ”

Line 6: What do you mean? Read aloud. Then let the last line write itself.

B. In a journal, write one or two stanzas from your answers above.

C. Self-Check List

How did you like writing this poem? _____

Did you think it was something you would do again? _____

Did you learn something? What? _____

Which part of the poetry starter, or which hint on page 70, was the most helpful to you? Why? _____

Answers and explanations start on page 112.