

Things for Students to Do

Sound

1. What sounds remind you of wind in the grass? On the board, make a list of words that have the right sounds to describe wind in the grass.
2. Pick two vowel sounds, then for each word make a list of words that would create assonance on that vowel sound. Which list is easier to make? Discuss why.
3. Pick a consonant. Write two short poems on the same subject; in the first, make as much alliteration with that consonant as you can. In the second poem, make as much consonance, but no alliteration, on that consonant as you can. Which technique seems to work best?

Meter

1. Find a ballad stanza by Emily Dickinson and try to rewrite it in dactyls or anapests. Discuss what you learn by trying this.
2. Write two ballad stanzas, but fill them with words that are three or four syllables. Use as few one- or two-syllable words as you possibly can. Discuss what you learn about meter by doing this.

Stanza

1. Have the students invent a new stanza, name it, and then write a poem using it.
2. Write a rime royal about a good friend.

Figures of Speech

1. Make a long list of similes beginning with "Ice cream is like..."
2. Make five metaphors for happiness, then decide which metaphor is the most creative and original.
3. Write a short poem that has an apostrophe to a personification, such as Shelley's "O wild West Wind..."