

Y6 Poetry In Depth

KS2 Y6 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

What does 'a folded umbrella of feathers' make you picture?

Step 1 · What does a folded umbrella look like?

tall, thin, grey or dark, pointed at the top

Step 2 · Link to the heron

a tall, thin bird with its wings tucked in

Step 3 · Technique

metaphor

Answer: It makes me picture a tall, thin, grey bird with its wings folded tightly against its body, standing very still, like an umbrella propped up.

Check: Explain the picture, not just the technique.

2. Now try one with the steps

Work out the rhyme scheme of stanza 2.

Step 1 · Line endings

Step 2 · Label new sounds with new letters

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is a stanza?

2. How many lines are in each stanza?

3. Which word rhymes with 'still' in stanza 1?

4. What technique is 'Grey rainy Monday'?

5. Find and copy one word in stanza 2 that is onomatopoeia.

6. Which word is repeated three times in stanza 2?

7. What does the heron catch?

8. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

9. What does 'Grey rainy Monday' suggest about the heron, besides its colour?

10. Find an example of personification in the poem and explain it.

11. Why does the poet use a dash in 'Then – strike!'?

12. How is the heron different from the river in stanzas 1 and 2?

13. How would you perform stanza 3 differently from stanza 2?

14. What do you think is the theme of the poem? Give a reason.

4. Before you hand it in

Listing techniques: 'There is a simile, a metaphor and alliteration.'

Explain what each one makes the reader picture or feel.

Deciding rhymes by spelling: 'gone' and 'on' do not rhyme because they end differently.

Read the line endings aloud.

Reading a poem at one speed and volume.

Mark pauses and changes in pace, especially at turning points.

Saying the theme is 'a heron'.

Ask what the poem says about life: patience, nature, time.