

Adventures in Learning Cinquain Poetry Curriculum Guide grades 3-6

Join Kenn Nesbitt the Adventures in Learning session, Writing Cinquain Poems before, during or after participating in the teaching and learning activities in this curriculum guide.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:



Understand that there are different types of poetry
Understand and apply Cinquain poetry structure
Review and apply parts of speech
Review and apply synonyms
Express thoughts and ideas in new ways

Share the structure of a cinquain poem with students. You may review parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives and discuss synonyms to help students understand the format of cinquain poetry.

Line 1	1 word title (noun)	2 syllables
Line 2	2 descriptive words (adjectives)	4 syllables
Line 3	3 words that express action	6 syllables
Line 4	4 words that express feeling	8 syllables
Line 5	1 word (synonym or reference to title)	2 syllables

You may also introduce the structure to students without the syllable requirement. This gives students the opportunity to practice the cinquain style with a focus on content, meaning and vocabulary. Students can then add the additional challenge of working within the syllable framework once they are more familiar with the concept of cinquain poetry.



CINQUAIN POETRY EXAMPLES:



Spiders
Hairy, scary
Spinning intricate webs
Chilly, creepy, crawly, afraid
Phobic

Softball
Hard, fun
Hitting, sliding, running
Batting, pitching, catching, exiting
Softball

Flower
Soft, colorful
Happy, sunny, warm, breezy
Pretty



Dinosaurs
Lived once,
Long ago, but
Only dust and dreams
Remain



Spaghetti
Messy, spicy
Slurping, sliding, falling
Between my plate and mouth
Delicious

Baseball
Bat cracks against
The pitch, sending it out
Over the back fence, I did it!
Homerun

Demonstration:

Model the process of writing a cinquain poem. Show students that a writer may write the lines out of order to help generate ideas. For example, write the first and third line and then go back and fill in the second line. A writer may also switch words to obtain a desired rhythm. Show students they should read the poem a few times out loud. Also, once the content and meaning are developed, demonstrate to students how a writer would go back and check each line to make sure the structure, word count, syllables and types of words meet the requirements of a cinquain poem.



Application:

As a class, or in small groups, have students analyze the structure of the cinquain poem more closely. Based on the format, what are some topics that might be good titles for cinquain poems? Have the large group or each of the small groups generate topics, share their answers and support their ideas.



Once all the topics have been discussed, make a list of each topic, cut each idea into slips of paper and put them in a hat or bag. Students can draw a slip of paper and write a cinquain poem about the topic they draw.

Students may want to add art to their cinquain poems by either writing the poem within a drawing, or making a collage out of magazine pictures to help illustrate their ideas.



Enrichment:

Have students write a description and step by step guide for writing cinquain poems that could be used as a classmate that is absent.

Websites:

http://www.readinga-z.com/poetry/lesson_plans/cinquain/cinquain_print.html
<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/poeform.htm>
http://hrsbstaff.ednet.ns.ca/davidc/6c_files/Poem%20pics/cinquaindescrip.htm