

River Poetry



Task 1: Look over your descriptive sentences from last week. Choose a particular river and create a list of appropriate verbs to provide information on how the water moves. Group verbs which link together, such as gurgling, humming and burbling, or dancing, tumbling and twisting. Create sentences that compare their grouped verbs to individuals or things, such as 'The river's an acrobat, dancing, tumbling and twisting down the valley'. Rehearse these aloud to see how they sound and swap verbs around if appropriate. Draft the first verse for a poem.

Note: Think about rhyming structure to use - perhaps ABAB or ABCB, as in the original poem - have a go at writing lines that rhyme. Model how to write lines that compare the river to an individual, selecting appropriate verbs.

Task 2: Work on a second verse, so that the poem develops. Whilst writing, continue to read the poem aloud, to check for rhythm and flow. Use a dictionary to check spellings and a thesaurus for alternative vocabulary.

Note: Encourage the children to be self-evaluative - Share their progress so far. Can we suggest any ways that this poem can be improved? Why do you think this is a really good start to the poem? Remind children of the value of composing lines orally before writing, even when working independently, to help them consider how lines sound and whether revisions are needed as they work.

Task 3: Write a final copy of their poem, checking carefully for spelling or grammatical mistakes. In joined handwriting, create a 'neat' version, designing a decorative river themed border as a frame.

Note: Children could record their poems using technology or tools, such as an MP3 recorder or Audacity and lay them over river images. You could share this with me via the class email.