

Counting Poems

Learn

There are lots of different types of **poetry**, but they often contain similar ingredients.

[\(If you have access to a computer, watch the video\).](#)

All poems are made up of **words**. Poems can be about anything - a thought, an emotion or a story. Poems can rhyme, use alliteration or rhythm but they don't have to.

Poems often have a **rhythm**, which is like a beat in music. The rhythm is quick or slow depending on the words the poet chooses.

Poems can use **rhyme**, which means that certain words have similar end sounds.

For example:

'break' and 'lake'

'cat' and 'mat'

'loud' and 'proud'



Poems can also use **alliteration**, which is when more than one word starts with the same first letter or sound.

For example: *The slimy, sneaky snake slithered silently.*

Activity 1

Have a go at answering these questions about poems. Circle the correct answer:

- 1) What must poems contain?
 - a) rhyme
 - b) words
 - c) a story
- 2) What are poems about?
 - a) anything
 - b) school
 - c) the weather
- 3) What do we call words with endings that sound the same?
 - a) rhyming words
 - b) alliteration
 - c) rhythm
- 4) What do you call it when words start with the same letter or sound?
 - a) rhyme
 - b) alliteration
 - c) rhythm

In the same way that there are different stories, such as fairy tales, thrillers and historical stories, there are many different types of poem. One type is a **counting poem**.

These poems contain some sort of counting, usually counting backwards from ten.

Watch this video to see an example of a counting poem.

[\(If you have access to a computer, watch the *Five little speckled frogs* video\).](#)

Do you know any counting poems / songs? Write them down:

Activity 2

[If you have access to a computer, watch some more examples of counting poems on this website.](#)

1. Which counting poem / song is your favourite?

2. Do you dislike anything about the poems?

Activity 3

If you don't have access to a computer, look at the *Five little speckled frogs* and answer the questions:

Five little speckled frogs sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum, yum!)
One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool
Now there are four green speckled frogs

Four little speckled frogs sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum, yum!)
One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool
Now there are three green speckled frogs

Three little speckled frogs sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum, yum!)
One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool
Now there are two green speckled frogs

Two little speckled frogs sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum, yum!)
One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool
Now there is one green speckled frog

One little speckled frog sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum, yum!)
It jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool
Now there are no green speckled frogs

1) How many frogs are there at the start?

2) Where are the frogs?

3) What are the frogs doing?

4) How many frogs are there at the end?

1. Do you like the poem? Why / why not?

Handwriting

Pigs in a pen

After an hour, Jem and his friend, (Ned was his name), move past the first pen full of pigs and take them some buns that they made. The pigs always want to break the buns every day when Jem and Ned pass where they live. The pigs had not even seen the way they came.



Letter-join 

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of four horizontal lines (two red outer lines and two blue inner lines) for writing practice.