

Diamante Poems

Winter
Rainy, cold
Skiing, skating, sledding
Mountains, wind, breeze, ocean
Swimming, surfing, scuba diving
Sunny, hot
Summer

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Students work in their desk group
 - a) Identify the structure / form of the poem (what are the parts of speech in each line)
 - b) Report orally and informally to the rest of the class on the feeling / tone of the poem.
 - c) Answer the questions: What is the relationship between the first and last lines? What is the "middle" of the poem, and how can you tell?
Students can use dictionaries, as necessary, to figure out unfamiliar words.
2. Students report on their assigned poems. (Optional: students practice with the instructor orally beforehand and then read their assigned poem to the class.)
The structural form is then written on the board or screen and/or presented on a handout. Example:

3. Line 1: Winter = 1 NOUN-A
Line 2: Rainy, cold = 2 ADJECTIVES-A
Line 3: Skiing, skating, sledding = 3 GERUNDS-A (verb + -ing)
Line 4: Mountains, wind, breeze, ocean = 2 NOUNS-A + 2 NOUNS-B
Line 5: Swimming, surfing, scuba diving = 3 GERUNDS-B (verb + -ing)
Line 6: Sunny, hot = 2 ADJECTIVES-B
Line 7: Summer = 1 NOUN-B
4. Students' observations regarding synonyms, parts of speech on each line, emotional tone, etc. are also discussed / outlined clearly.
5. Individual groups then "brainstorm" as many possible pairs of synonyms as they can create. The teacher puts the pairs up on the board / overhead screen as suggestions (e.g. school days-holidays, woman-man, student-teacher, love-hatred, peace-war, divorce-marriage). Students can use a dictionary and/or thesaurus.
6. Students and the instructor choose one of the brainstormed topics and write a cinquaine poem together on the board / overhead screen. Optional: copy it down and add it to the class collection if a class anthology is in the works.
7. Working individually with a template (see sample below), students write one or more cinquaines on the subject(s) of their choice. (Poems can also be written or transferred onto a computer VIA a teacher-prepared template.)

Example: A Diamante (Diamond Shaped) Poem about Winter-Summer:

Step by Step

1) Your first line needs one noun

Winter

*Nouns are people, places and things. For Example: Terry Fox, Paris, Dog, Spring.

2) Your second line needs two adjectives

Rainy, cold

*Adjectives are words that describe nouns. For Example: Strong, Yellow, Sweaty, Hot.

3) Your Third line needs 3 Gerunds

Skiing, skating, sledding

Gerunds are descriptive action verbs that end in ...ing. For Example, Falling, Dying.

4) Your fourth line needs 4 nouns (person, places, things):

Mountains, winds, breeze ocean

5) Your fifth line needs 3 gerunds (ing)

Swimming, surfing, scuba diving

6) Your sixth line sixth line needs 2 adjective

Sunny, hot

7) Your seventh line needs I noun

Summer

_____, _____

_____, _____, _____

_____, _____, _____, _____,

_____, _____, _____

_____, _____
