

DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER

The Poetry Of Dolphins

Grade Level: 3rd-5th

Objectives: Students will develop an appreciation for various styles of poetry; will demonstrate knowledge of dolphins in a creative way; will create a class poetry book.

Florida Sunshine State Standards:

Language Arts

LA.B.1.2 The student uses writing processes effectively.

LA.B.2.2.3 The student writes for a variety of occasions, audiences, and purposes.

LA.E.1.2.1 The student identifies the distinguishing features among fiction, drama, and poetry and identifies the major characteristics of nonfiction.

National Science Education Standards:

Content Standard C (K-4) - Characteristics of Organisms: Each plant or animal has different structures that serve different functions in growth, survival, and reproduction. For example, humans have distinct body structures for walking, holding, seeing, and talking.

Content Standard C (5-8) - Diversity and Adaptations of Organisms: Biological evolution accounts for the diversity of species developed through gradual processes over many generations. Species acquire many of their unique characteristics through biological adaptation, which involves the selection of naturally occurring variations in populations. Biological adaptations include changes in structures, behaviors, or physiology that enhance survival and reproductive success in a particular environment.

Background: Dolphins/whales and samples of various types of poetry can show how diverse and exciting poetry can be. Types of poetry:

- **Spreading poem:** Write about dolphins with words that spread across the page! (see example)
- **Biopoem:** Consists of 11 lines.(see example) Write a biopoem about one of DRC's dolphins! (www.dolphins.org)
- **Emotion poem:** Describe an emotion that you associate with dolphins. Discuss how they make you feel, how you think they feel, etc. (See example)
- **Noun and Adjective poem:** The dolphin is the noun, and the adjectives describe him/her!
- **"I do not understand" poem:** List three things you don't understand about the world, dolphins, or other people. These can be important, silly, or serious i.e. conservation, a blowhole for a nose, pollution, etc. Then name something you do not

Key Terms

Adaptations:

Changes in structures, behaviors, or physiology that enhance survival and reproductive success in a particular environment.



DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER, 58901 Overseas Hwy, Grassy Key, FL 33050
(305) 289-1121 www.dolphins.org

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understand the most. End with something you do understand. (See example)

- **Cinquain:** Five lines combining descriptive words, action words, feeling words, and a synonym for the title (see example).
- **Limerick:** Also five lines long. Lines one, two, and five rhyme; lines three and four rhyme.
- **Haiku:** Three lines long about one subject (dolphins!). The first and third lines have five syllables. The second line has seven syllables.
- **Alphabet poem:** (see example)
- **Five W's Poem:** Five lines long. Each line answers one of the 5 W's- who what when where and why?

Materials:

- Paper
- Pens
- Examples of types of poetry
- Website www.dolphins.org
- Pictures of dolphins
- KWL chart
- Books for reference:

Dolphins:

- ***The Whales*** by Cynthia Rylant
- ***Whales and Dolphins*** by Robin Kerrod
- ***Whales, Dolphins, and Porpoises*** by Mark Carwardine

Poetry:

- ***The Whales*** by Cynthia Rylant
- ***Falling Up*** by Shel Silverstein
- **Children's Haiku Garden:** <http://www.tecnet.or.jp/~haiku/>
- **Dr. Seuss books** (any)
- ***The Random House Book of Poetry for Children*** by Jack Prelutsky and Arnold Lobel
- ***Alphabet Poem*** by Michael Rosen
- ***Doodle Dandies: Poems That Take Shape*** by J. Patrick Lewis

Teacher Prep Notes: Visit our website to become familiar with the layout in order to help the students with navigation. Collect the materials needed to bind the book according to the method you choose - staples, ribbon/hole punches, coil binding, metal rings, etc. Paper for the cover page for book, and a list of the poetry authors! Prepare a KWL chart to introduce the lesson.



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Procedures:

1. Discuss different types of poems
2. Facilitate ?'s such as "Is there just one type of poem?"
3. "Do poems have to rhyme?"
4. Read the book, *The Whales*. (Have other books/samples on hand as examples.)
5. Introduce to the class that they will be making their very own dolphin poetry book!
6. KWL chart- on board or paper, whichever is your preference
7. What do we know about dolphins? (K column)
8. What do we want to learn about dolphins? (W column)
9. Research dolphins through books, Internet sites, DRC info files etc. (L column is for whatever is learned)
10. Choose a poem (at least one type) to write about dolphins and include at least three facts you have learned.
11. Be creative!
12. Illustrate, color, etc.

Wrap Up: Present poems and make book!

Taking it Further:

- Try other poetic styles!



Styles of Poetry

1. Spreading Poem:

word word

word

word word

word word

word

word

word

word word

2. Bio Poem: see DRC website for Dolphin Bios

Line 1: First name i.e. Delphi

Line 2: Four traits that describe _____ i.e. Handsome, the Fox, great alligator impression, noisy.

Line 3: Relative of ... (brother,sister,daughter,etc) i.e. father of Santini, Aleta, Merina, Talon.

Line 4: Lover of...(list three things or people, etc) i.e. stuffed turtles, belly flops, people, nerf balls.

Line 5: Who feels... (List three feelings) i.e. loveable, popular, friendly.

Line 6: Who needs: (list three items) i.e. fish, attention, toys.

Line 7: Who fears... (List three things) i.e. marine debris, inconsiderate people, lack of toys for playtime.

Line 8: Who gives... (List three things) i.e. love, laughter, peace.

Line 9: Who would like to see... (List three things) i.e. people, cameras, more toys!

Line 10: Resident of... i.e. Dolphin Research Center.

Line 11: Name again. Or last name (in this exercise, not applicable) i.e. Delphi.

3. Emotion Poem:

(An emotion based on how dolphins make you feel or how you think they feel) seems (a color)

Like (a comparison)

I see...

I hear...

I smell...



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I taste...

Example:

Peace seems blue

Like the waves surrounding a dolphin's play

I see water of blue and green

I hear whistles and clicks

I smell fish and salt from the sea and air

I taste the Gulf of Mexico

4. Noun and Adjective Poem:

(Title) Noun, Noun, Noun i.e. Dolphins, Dolphins, Dolphins

Noun: Dolphins

Noun: Dolphins

Adjective, noun: Atlantic bottle-nosed dolphins

Adjective, noun: Graceful, dolphins

Adj. Adj. Adj., noun: Gray, intelligent, gentle dolphins

Adj. Adj. Adj. Noun: Sleek, smooth, streamlined dolphins

Those are just a few

5. "I do not understand" poem:

List three things you don't understand about the world, dolphins, other people. These can be important, serious, or silly. Then, name the thing you don't understand the most. End with something you do understand.

I do not understand why people litter.

I do not understand why people aren't more responsible.

I do not understand why dolphins' lives are in danger

But most of all, I do not understand why humans take their own impact so lightly.

I do understand that all life is precious.

6. Cinquain:

One word title: *Dolphins*

Two describing words: *Intelligent, aware*

Three action words: *Swimming, leaping, playing*

Four feeling words: *Beautiful flukes and flippers*

One word synonym for title: *Cetaceans*

7. Limerick:

Five lines: lines one, two and five rhyme; Lines three & four rhyme:

Out in the deep blue sea



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There are over 30 different species
Of dolphins around the world
In oceans and seas unfurled
Swimming ever so gracefully

8. Haiku: 3 lines long:

The first and third lines have five syllables. The second line has seven syllables.
Beautiful dolphin,
Mist from their breaths fills the air
True grace in motion

9. Alphabet Poem:

Delphinid
Odontecete
Lively
Pectoral flippers
Helpful
Intelligent
Navigational

10. Five W's Poem:

Five lines- answers one of the five W's- who, what, where, when, why
Dolphins
Feed on fish, shrimp, and even squid
In the world's oceans
During the seasons throughout the year
Because they are hungry!

