

PREPARATION

Choose an area where children can sit in the heathland habitat with views of the surrounding landscape and have paper and pencil. Ensure adults also have paper and pencil.

INTRODUCTION

Explain that many poets are inspired by nature and write poems that celebrate different aspects of it.



ACTIVITY

Creative Nature Poem

Find a suitable spot for each individual child to sit quietly to contemplate nature and observe the nature around them.

Provide each child with a piece of paper.

Ask each child to write 3 words which describe what they see i) above in the air, ii) on the ground near them and iii) something in the distance.

Gather them all back together so that they can share their words with each other.

Finally encourage them to use their words to create sentences that can then be grouped together into a poem.

Key Stage
1

AIM

To create a group poem about the heathland

Adults to write the sentences they create.

Key Stage
1 EXAMPLE

*The tree is twisted and gnarly,
The branches flow out from the face,
Ivy clinging, ivy hugging the branches,
Weaving in and out.*

Anna and Georgina, age 10,
Burrington C.E. Primary School

ACTIVITY

Pebble Poetry

Key Stage
2

AIM

Pairing adjectives and nouns to create poetry or a story

Placed around an area will be 15 red pebbles labelled with nouns and 15 darker pebbles labelled with adjectives - see 'Heathland Word Bank'.

Each child finds a pebble.

A child with a dark pebble pairs up with a child with a red pebble to create a sentence involving those words.

Children as a group to piece together a poem from the resulting sentences.

Key Stage
2 EXAMPLE

See overleaf for cloze procedure and poem to inspire.



Key Stage 2 EXAMPLE

Short example cloze procedure.

I love to see the **(adjective) (noun)** on the heath.
Rustling leaves that **(powerful verb)** in the breeze,
And the **(adjective)** nightjars churring from underneath.
As the heather takes a rest from the **(adjective, adjective)** bees.

Key Stage 2 EXAMPLE

Example of a poem to inspire.

Emmonsail's Heath in Winter by John Clare

I love to see the old heath's withered brake
Mingle its crimped leaves with furze and ling,
While the old heron from the lonely lake
Starts slow and flaps its melancholy wing,
An oddling crow in idle motion swing
On the half-rotten ash-tree's topmost twig,
Beside whose trunk the gypsy makes his bed.
Up flies the bouncing woodcock from the brig
Where a black quagmire quakes beneath the tread;
The fieldfares chatter in the whistling thorn
And for the haw round fields and closen rove,
And coy bumarrels, twenty in a drove,
Flit down the hedgerows in the frozen plain
And hang on little twigs and start again.





Cut out the word pebbles on these pages to use for the Pebble Poetry activity.

gnarly

twisted

soulful

decaying

bristly

crumbly

crumpled

whispering

whistling

flowing

prickly

shallow

weathered



Cut out the word pebbles on these pages to use for the Pebble Poetry activity.

carved

quaking

rolling

sparse

birdsong

wind

tumbling

branches

sunshine

leaves

gorse

pebble

butterfly



Cut out the word pebbles on these pages to use for the Pebble Poetry activity.

rain

heather

mud

stone

sand

rocks



The spaces below can be used for any additional nouns and adjectives you wish to include.

adjective

adjective

adjective

adjective

noun

noun

noun

noun